

# Anurita Bazar Patrika

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VOL. XXXV.

CALCUTTA SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1904.

NO. 28

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FOR ALL  
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DISORDERS:  
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despair of their lives. Its effects are sure and  
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the Doctors and physicians as hopeless amid the  
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Give it but a trial and you will find its effects  
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The INDIAN REVIEW for February contains  
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Mr. Kipling and his World By Mr. John M. Robert-  
son. What's in a Name? By Mr. H. G. Keene.  
C. I. R., I. C. Mr. G. S. Aiyar on "Some Economic  
Aspects of British Rule in India" By Prof. Ambika  
Charan Ukil, M. A., Herbert Spencer and his  
Teachings By Doctor Guglielmo E. Salvadori.  
Maitreyi: A Vedic Story By Pandit Sitant  
Tattvabhusan, The Tariff Problem. By Mr. C. S.  
Morrison, M. A. The Indian Govt. on Preferential  
Tariffs. By "An Indian Publicist." Current Event,  
By Rajduri Tolstory on "Peace and War" Th-  
War between Russia and Japan. By "Britannicus"  
The Indian Universities' Bill By the Editor, Herberys  
Spencer's Advice to Japan, with this number, S-  
issued a war map which is given free to subscribers  
and another noteworthy feature is that it contains the  
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Weakness caused by youthful Indiscretion and  
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"Meyores has done immense good in several cases  
and is certainly the best medicine for Sexual  
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that one phial of your MEYORES has acted as a  
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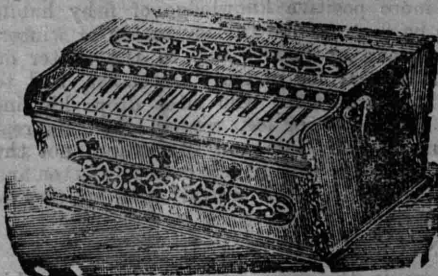
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A prompt and powerful alternative and Depurator acting directly upon the  
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The distressing poison of Syphilis with its primary, secondary or tertiary  
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It has the power of causing the elimination of Mercury from the system,  
and the essence of Sarsaparilla will renew the arterial blood of putrid humours  
and the stomach regulate the bowels and impart a tone of health.

One trial will convince you of the utility of this medicine.  
CAUTION—Always ask your Druggist for POWELL'S Iodised Compound Essence of Sarsaparilla  
and be sure you get the genuine which bears our Trade Mark.

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EXQUISITELY ENAMELLED AND ENGRAVING CASES.

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With extra glass spring and guarantee.

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2. MOHIN BROS., beg most respectfully to  
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## Price of the Mohin Flutes.

Mohin flute 3 octave 3 steps F to F	Rs. 35
Do. " " " " C to C	40
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best finish	50
The octave copula 3 octave 3 steps	60
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Do. Superior	100
Mohin flute 3 1/2 octave 5 steps	100
Do. 3 1/2 octave 6 steps	120
Mohin flute 4 octave 3 steps	120
Do. 3 octave 4 steps	100
Do. 3 1/2 octave 5 steps	100

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Homeopathic Druggists and Chemists of Europe  
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Price list free on application.

RENOWNED AS THE PHYSICIAN FOR 200 YEARS

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AN Excellent blood and restorative. These Pills  
purify the blood, invigorate the nerves and  
give the most healthful tone to the whole system.  
For general debility, for loss of appetite, sleep and  
menstruation and for all mental and physical disorders  
they are the safest and the surest remedy. In short,  
they are a boon to the doomed, a hope to the  
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Pills and postage extra.

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has effected so prompt and permanent a cure to  
all those who have used it that thousands of unsolici-  
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Maharajas Have unanimously  
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lence of our world-re-  
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KESHANJAN OIL,  
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It improves the system, gives strength  
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Acts as a charm, even in obstinate cases of  
Diabetes—which have taken away from  
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Efficacy of this invaluable preparation,  
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Save many a valuable life from premature  
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## THE PUDUKOTTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The third Annual Meeting of the Pudukotta Representative Assembly was held on the 1st instant at the Public Offices Hall, Dewan Bahadur S. Venkatarama Doss, Dewan, presiding. There were present, Mr. S. Dorarajah, B.A., Councillor, the Judges of the Chief Court, the Dewan Peishkar and the heads of the principal Departments of the State.

## THE DEWAN'S ADDRESS.

The Dewan commenced the proceedings with his Address to the Assembly, of which the following is an abridged report:—

The Representative Assembly had entered upon the third year of its existence, owing to the winds of the apprehensions of all those who thought the soil of Pudukotta was ungenial to its growth, and that Pudukotta lacked all that was necessary to nurture institutions which imposed upon the public political duties and responsibilities. He hoped that in the fulness of time the members of this Assembly would come to be recognised as the channels of communication between the Sircar and the public, and would be able to prepare and educate the public mind to grasp the fact that the Sircar was at all times actuated by an unremitting solicitude for the people, and to bring to its notice any grievances which, for want of correct information, it had so far left unaddressed.

During the 'Fasli' 1312, there was an increase of 6,782 acres in the occupied area, and the actual revenue demand rose in consequence by nearly Rs. 24,000. A sum of Rs. 40,624 was remitted in honour of the Coronation of the King-Emperor, and Rs. 26,375, representing revenue fines, was also ordered to be remitted and written off. The Assembly should use its influence with the Patadars and impress upon them the wisdom of paying off the arrears due to the Sircar without driving it to the necessity of taking coercive measures for the recovery of the same.

The Durbar had till now put off the commencement of Revenue Settlement in deference to the advice of a former Political Agent who thought that the State should not be burdened with the cost of both the Survey and Settlement simultaneously; but this policy could not be continued any longer as the Government has observed in its review of the last Administration Report that the Revenue Settlement operations need not have been put off "till the completion of the Survey of the whole State." It has, therefore, been resolved to arrange for the commencement of Revenue Settlement operations with effect from July, 1904.

They would be anxious to know in what stage the Durbar's scheme in respect of a railway to or through Pudukotta was. The Report of the Railway Commission had recommended the construction of a broad gauge line from Ramnad more or less direct to Trichinopoly. That alignment would serve Pudukotta, and they would, in all human probability, sooner or later, have this broad gauge Railway.

The Kottayar irrigation project in the Tirumoon Taluq was nearly complete; and it would lead to an increased area of wet land being brought under cultivation, besides ensuring an unfailing water-supply to 4,000 acres of existing wet land. As he had stated in the Administration Report, the a dual condition of the irrigation works was generally unsatisfactory, except as regards the tanks repaired in the last few years which included all tanks having an "ayakut" of more than "200 acres Orders" had been issued to arrange all the tanks in the State into groups and to take up the repairs of all the tanks in a group at one time, commencing, of course, from the topmost tank. Whenever necessary, these tanks had been ordered to be provided with masonry work of the modern type. The existing works are in many places, insufficient, and a survey of the locality has disclosed the necessity for the construction of large storage reservoirs and for improving the supply to many tanks by this and other means. The investigation now ordered, and the lists that would be prepared in connection with the "Kudimaramath" Regulation would bring to light much interesting matter connected with the irrigation potentialities of the State. The State, however, could hope for little in the way of getting the water of a perennial river unless the Government of Madras ordered that the Cauvery channel to Patukotta should be taken through this territory, and the water required by the State be supplied free.

They were still where they were last year in respect of industries. Not one new industry has yet been opened by any enterprising gentleman of the place. In these matters, they should not expect the State to move, but they might expect the support of the State by way of facilities and concessions, but the initiative should be left wholly to private enterprise. The Assembly should bestow their serious consideration on the subject, and render it possible for them to prevent labourers from going out of the State in quest of employment.

Nothing has yet been done in regard to the "kistbundi" about which there were a few questions and suggestions last year, as the Durbar thought that a move should be made only after the opinion of the public had been ascertained through the Assembly. As soon as he heard from the Assembly, the question would be settled.

The suggestion made by the Assembly two years ago that provisions might be made for the introduction of trials by Jury or with the aid of Assessors, had been duly considered, and orders had been issued for the introduction of trials with the aid of Assessors with effect from 1st July, 1904. The system of trial by Jury did not obtain in any Native State in Southern India, and the advisability of introducing it would be considered later on.

Action has also been taken on the suggestion of the Assembly that arrangements should be made for law-reporting and for the codification of the laws in force. A Legislative Committee is being formed for drafting Regulations as suggested by the Assembly.

The work of the Police was not quite satisfactory in some respects as observed by Government; but strict injunctions have been issued to produce better results in the future. The administration of Criminal and Civil Justice was satisfactory, though in regard criminal justice the Government observe that the causes for the rise in the number of cases of robbery and theft, and fall in the number of offences under the Salt Regulation have not

been correctly stated. The administration of the Salt, Abkari and Forest Department was all that could be desired. The Registration Department worked very well as usual. The working of the Public Works Department was satisfactory; and Government has remarked that "a large amount was spent on irrigation Departments did good work, though it is." The Medical, Sanitary and Education must be said that in the matter of registration of vital statistics of reducing the average cost of vaccination, and of the net average cost per pupil in the Collegiate Department there still existed room for much improvement. The year closed with a surplus of .64 lakhs, and the total balance up to the end of Fasli was Rs. 11,30,123 of which 7 lakhs were in the shape of Government Promissory notes bearing interest at 3½ per cent.

There was a familiar rendering of the Address which was followed by questions and answers.

## SOME OF THE QUESTIONS.

Among the more important matters dealt with in questions and answers were the following:—

One of the questions asked contained a proposal to revive the old practice of the Sircar giving advances to the ryots for the purpose of repairing the tanks in their village in the place of the new practice under which they are required to execute the repairs at their own cost, and recoup themselves afterwards when Government paid them. The proposal about restoring the old practice about granting advances did not find favour with the Sircar; but it has consented to disbursing the payments for works done at more frequent intervals than now. The provision of pasture for cattle was raised in another question; and the matter was reserved to be looked into during the ensuing settlement. As regards the water supply scheme for the town of Pudukotta, which formed the subject of another interpellation, the Assistant Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras submitted two schemes. The cost of one of them was Rs. 46,300, with an annual charge of Rs. 2,700 for its maintenance; water being distributed by a system of pipe service. The other scheme was estimated to cost Rs. 77,700, the cost of maintenance being Rs. 700, distribution being aided in this case by gravitation. The latter scheme has been preferred. Under either scheme, the supply will be five gallons per day, per head, for a population of 20,000. The compulsory registration of simple bonds—a departure from the Indian Registration Act under which it is optional—was asked to be abolished, but the Durbar did not see its way to accepting the proposal. A question put in regard to the expenditure of the Public Works Department, elicited the information that, in this State, there was no fixed proportion between the estimated cost of an irrigation work, and the cost of establishment to be entertained for it. Rigorous coercive processes for the collection of taxes, and the excessive charges for the execution of those processes were represented in another question; and the reply to it was that there had been a steady decline both in the rigor of the measures and in the heaviness of the charges, and that the question of further reductions would be considered when the report called for from Dewan Peishkar is received.

It was asked again that the necessity for paying "batta" to witnesses required to attend at adjourned enquiries be dispensed with, and their attendance secured by means of "muchilikas." The Durbar considered this a novel practice to be followed in Civil Suits. In the matter of the Revenue Settlement, whose operations would soon commence, it was proposed in one of the questions by a member of the Assembly that the Durbar should have a conference with at least 10 members of the Assembly before settling its final scheme, and entrust the operations to a Board consisting of three officers instead of a single officer. The proposal was declined. Another member asked that the hours of attendance of the Judges of the Chief Court should begin at 12 noon, that a return should be called for from them of cases dismissed by them for default of attendance, either of the parties or their pleaders, between the hours of eleven and twelve during the last year. Both these requests were rejected; but the suggestion made by the same member for the establishment of a regular Court of second appeal for the State was accepted and promised to be laid before His Highness the Rajah for his commands.

The end of the questions having been reached, the members of the Assembly returned their thanks to the Dewan in Council for his uniformly courteous and kindly attitude towards them, Mr. B. Saminada Rao, B.A., B.L., Kurbar of the Chinnaarawanai Jagir, being the spokesman.

The proceedings then terminated.

## DWARFS IN LOVE.

A serious love affair in the world of dwarfs is just now engaging the attention of Paris, and it is hinted that the outcome may be a duel. Princess Chiguita, a tiny American woman, who was born in 1881, stands 2ft. 4in. in her high-heeled boots, and weighs 11lbs., is now on exhibition at Bostock's menagerie at the Paris Hippodrome. Some time ago two dwarfs, who also happened to be in Paris—Auguste, who is twenty-six years old and stands 3ft. 6in. high, and Delphin, aged twenty-one, height 2ft. 7ins.—went to see the little lady, and both fell desperately in love. Auguste is a Frenchman, and Delphin a German, and both started writing inflammatory love letters to the little Princess, who, as became a well bred young lady, handed the letters to her papa, a man of normal size and appearance. The French dwarf is, however, of a jealous and fiery character, and on hearing that the German dwarf Delphin had been to see the Princess, and had handed her a bouquet which had been graciously accepted, is now beside himself with anger. He has threatened that if Delphin continues to pay such decided attentions to the lady, he will challenge him to fight a duel. Delphin, on the other hand says that he is "not afraid of that big French bully, Auguste."

A pressman endeavoured to ascertain whether the Princess favoured one or the other of her suitors, but the merely said that she was quite happy to remain as she was. Auguste, she said, she feared was rather quick-tempered, and Delphin was so ardent and sentimental that she hardly liked to take all that he said for gospel truth. "I do hope the silly boys will not fight about me," she said.

## FISH HABITS IN WINTER WATERS.

## CURIOSITIES OF FINNY LIFE UNDER THE ICE.

The follower of Izaak Walton may love his sport for sport's sake, but is, after all, but an imperfect member of the Waltonian brotherhood if he does not, like his master, join the love of nature with the love of fishing. The true angler is a hybrid of the naturalist and sportsman who has an eye, not merely for the cast of the line, the style of rod, and the season of baits, but for the habits, the lives, and the variations of temperament in the aquatic quarry which he beguiles. Such an angler-naturalist in the clear, open waters of spring, summer, and early autumn, undoubtedly may harvest larger and more positive knowledge of fishy habits than he finds behind the icy screen of winter-bound lake or pond. But to the skater on the first clear ice of early December, and to the lone fisherman, who later drops his line through a foot of ice, winter offers its real tribute of fishy lore and suggestion, not the less alluring because it has been unwritten and because it is often edged with mystery or paradox.

## WINTER ENIGMAS AND BLACK BASS.

There is the mossgrown story of the philosopher who, at the end of his first week's stay in Rome, thought he knew much of the imperial city; at the end of two weeks thought he knew it all, and at the end of six months found he knew nothing. The illustration fits aptly that Hercules of game fish, the black bass. The more we study him, the less we know of his habits. His erratic moods of biting, his tastes and vagaries as to foods and haunts, and whether in the fishing season after he leaves the spawning beds he lingers along a particular reef or wanders from place to place, are matters as to which each angler has his theory, but a theory never sustained. Most of the voluminous writers on the subject of the habits of the bass agree, however, in asserting that he hibernates in winter. The inference is drawn from the infrequency with which he takes the bait in winter, and from the fact that bass have been found in hollow logs or the interstices of rocks when winter ponds have been drawn off—facts quite as explicable by the law of seeking refuge as of hibernation. But there are counter facts. It is a thing of positive knowledge that not many years ago in a small pond of eastern New York State, in late November, an angler took a handsome string of bass, after pushing his boat through a long reach of thin ice to open water. Two ponds can be named in southern New England where the winter bass are taken through the ice pretty often—in one case eighty pounds at a single day's fishing. The writer, during many seasons of winter fishing can record hooking but a single bass, a fish weighing three pounds and a half. A careful examination showed that it was full fleshed, of perfectly natural color, and without the slightest sign of hibernation. But its coating of slime was unaccountably thick, suggesting, though far from proving, some inactivity of movement. If one may launch his own theory as to the winter habit of the mystic fish, the idea may be thrown out tentatively that the black bass in native waters does not hibernate at all, but becomes sluggish, seeks a ground food over very small space, and is caught infrequently in winter only because he is not then an active food seeker. The extreme rarity of large catches in winter goes far to indicate that under the ice the bass drops those summer whims in biting which are at once the angler's marvel and despair.

## LITTLE FISH OF THE BROOKS.

But fish that almost surely go into retirement during winter are the little fish of the brooks of the dace and chub genus, which, in late May or June, are the familiar bane of the fisher when he whips the trout streams. These common fingerlings of the brooks, useful only for bait on river or lake, more closely studied reveal to the naturalist interesting habits. Most abundant in August, they begin to disappear with the first frosts of September. October shows a few thin schools, which in November quite pass from sight. If in winter we go to one of the larger pools of the brook, clear away the ice, and industriously prod under rock or in the beds of muddy sand, we shall dislodge a few sluggish chubs, evidently hibernating. One by one they begin to appear in mid-April, multiplying as the water warms. In summer, unlike the trout and plebeian suckers, which seek the springholes, we shall find the chub and dace loitering the still shallows, where they can bask in the sun—a habit curiously at variance with their quick death when the sun warms the water in the bait pan.

More instructive are the ways of the beautiful little fish named the "pond shiner," the counterpart of the shad seen through reversed lenses. The pond shiners, crack bait for winter fishing, are mildly gregarious in the hot months. As the water cools in the autumn and freezes the gregarious instinct deepens, and they crowd in close schools, sometimes square rods in extent, and reaching from surface to bottom. Watch the slow movement of one of these schools, and we may observe a striking phase of fishy life. Sometimes the edge of the school is in gentle rotation, sometimes the rank and file behind constantly press to the front while the leaders drop behind, sometimes both motions go on together. Interpreted, the complex movement simplifies into giving each fingerling in the school his chance at fresh water and the minute insect food that never passes beyond the hungry mouths of the shifting outer circle. In summer we often find these pond shiners grown big to four-ounce or even six-ounce size, and their silver sides changed to old gold. But with the first frosts these "big" shiners disappear absolutely, no one knows where. They do not "school" with their younger relations, and appear to have a cold water custom quite distinct.

## WINTER LIFE IN THE LAKES.

Happily for the winter fishermen, the two food fish most common in fresh waters not only never hibernate, but seem actually to increase their activity as food hunters. These are the yellow perch and the pickerel. The large and regular catches of perch in the upland lakes—even allowing for larger areas reached by the many lines—argues brisk movement under the ice; while, as for the pickerel, they will be taken abundantly on the same winter's day and in the same hour over the widest rangers of bottom, and in water ranging from two to thirty feet deep. In summer the

pickerel, when alarmed, darts away like an arrow. But in winter the skater who finds the fish under thin, clear ice in the shallows and follows him swiftly will find his dart exchanged for a wriggle. The fish goes swiftly to be sure, but with nothing like his summer speed, and—again unlike his warm water habit—usually plunges in the mud for refuge. In summer the perch usually quite biting the moment the setting sun is below the horizon. But in winter on the darkest days, under the thickest snow-clad ice and well into the twilight both perch and pickerel take the bait freely, suggesting strongly some readjustment of vision to wintry waters.

The winter habit of the trout is a bit obscure. But we know that he does not hibernate, and generally, after spawning in October, seeks a winter home in the deeper pools or the nearest pond, if he can reach it, feeding sometimes on small fish, but more commonly on the larvae of the bottom. That he prefers the spring holes to the icy water a single experience may be cited to prove. Years ago the writer, wandering down a large trout stream linearly April on a freezing day, was surprised to see trout leaping playfully near a grassy bank. A closer look disclosed a spring under water near the edge of the channel, and for years after that spot rarely failed to give up a good trout or two in the first spring fishing. Or, to take another case, there is a large lake in Connecticut where trout are almost never taken. Yet some winters since a professional fisherman took some forty, averaging half a pound in weight, from a single hole during one winter's fishing. That he happened to find a spring hole is a fair presumption.

Many are the mysteries of fish life in the winter, and not few are the curious breaks in the fishy laws of habit. Why do the eels in armies run from the upland lakes down stream in autumn freshets to the sea, yet leave many of their brethren behind? Do bullheads hibernate, and, if not, why do they rarely or never in winter take the bait which they crave in summer nights? Where does the many-named roach, also dubbed sun-fish and punkin seed, make his winter home, and what are his cold-water customs? The ardent angler who tips sport with observation finds many such queries to which the wintry arcana of fishy life denies him answer.

## THE COSSACKS.

The capture by the Cossacks of a Japanese major and seven of his men—the result of the first land encounter between Muscovite and Jap—draws attention to that force unique in its kind, which forms the link between the regular and irregular regiments of the army of Russia. The military education of the Cossacks, a curious blending of the Tartar and the Caucasian races, begins, whilst he is in his cradle, when the first sounds his ear catches are the words of the warlike songs with which he is rocked to sleep, and the Cossack children's games are nearly all of a warlike nature. The boys are placed on horseback as soon as they can walk, so that it is small wonder if the Cossack and his horse soon become as one. He wears no spur, and his arms are so well contrived that they make no noise, and it is their boast that "a hundred Cossacks make less noise than a single regular cavalry soldier."

The Cossack regiments in former days were raised in very irregular fashion. All depended on the commander, on whom devolved the sole responsibility of raising a regiment. The only regulations were those contained in a few manuscript instructions, nor was there any fixed drill or words of command. But the Cossack was a warrior by birth and education, the son and grandson of warriors, and with his first list had learned to speak of war. From early years of age the Cossack boys rode fearlessly over the steppes on half-wild barebacked horses; the days were passed in training themselves for war; the long evenings passed in listening to the tales of raid and adventure with which the veterans fired the spirit of their sons.

On outpost duty they were, and are still, the eye, or, shall we say, the pointerdog of the Russian Army. Unlike the ordinary Russian, they are independent in spirit, self-reliant, and full of resource. They know little of the cringing servility that brands the ordinary Slav as belonging to an inferior order of human beings. Accustomed to communistic government, they can obey or command, as the occasion requires. They are both prudent and brave, prudent because they are acquainted with danger, and brave because bravery is part of their creed. "The army may sleep in safety when Cossacks are at the outposts," is a common Russian saying, for they scent danger afar off and are supposed to be secure against surprise. One prominent feature of the Cossacks character, which strikes one as being strangely at variance in conjunction with their independence and self-reliance, is their superstitious faith in all manner of signs and omens, and the most trivial act of everyday life is usually prefaced by prayer.

In actual warfare the larger part of the scouting service and of cavalry out post duty falls to the share of the Cossacks. They carry orders and dispatches, act as orderlies to officers, and perform all kinds of useful services. Whenever a man is needed for anything outside ordinary camp duties, a Cossack is sure to be summoned; wherever the advance guard of infantry penetrates, it is sure to find that the Cossacks have already left their mark, for they had, if they do not retain, the activity of true pioneers and all the restlessness of savages.

Such are the Cossacks, and, as such, they, of all the troops of the Russian Army, welcome the war with Japan, since it will enable them to rub off the rust of years of peace, for the Russian makes no secret of the fact that they were a century ago, or when all Europe rang with their fame after the great part they played during the retreat from Moscow of the Grand Army of Napoleon in 1812. Races of warlike people all the world over, who have enjoyed a long period of peace, and turned their swords into ploughshares, must lose some portion of that military instinct which was formerly a part of their nature. In days gone by, the Cossacks for ever contending with the Tartars, continually engaged in forays and raids, became so entirely a warrior race that that part of their lives not spent in war was passed in military exercises.

But now, except in such circumstances as those of the present war, the Cossack does not live to fight. He passes a peaceable existence

on the land he cultivates for the support of his family, and when called out for military exercise, no longer employs his ancient tactics but is taught in the same manner as the regular troops. He has thus to some extent lost those especial qualities which formerly distinguished him. The Cossack, in times past, was an incomparable irregular soldier, but a process of somewhat injudicious dragooning has gone far to make him only an indifferent regular. The next few weeks or months will show whether the traditions and instincts of his ancestry may not, after all, be stronger than the cramping influence of the barracks.

## A FRENCH VIEW OF THE TIBET MISSION.

M. Berard contributes to the second February number of the "Revue de Paris" the first part of a study of Lord Curzon and Tibet. The recent Blue Book on Tibet was published too late to be dealt with in this article; M. Berard is no doubt reserving it for next month. He shows us a picture of Lord Curzon amusing himself with fetes and Durbars, elephants and Nabobs, while four or five millions of Hindus die of famine every year. Lord Curzon he says, has been called the most Asiatic of gentlemen, and he compares his detestation of Russia with Napoleon's detestation of England. The early letters which Lord Curzon wrote to the "Times" on Russia in Central Asia, the Persian Question, and problems of the Far East are recalled in order to exhibit the consistent policy of this remarkable man. The first years of his Viceroyalty in India were occupied by the South African War, which, by denuding India of troops, held his Asiaticism in check. The termination of the war in 1902 was followed by the affirmation of the rights of England at Koweit and over all the Persian Gulf. Then came in 1903 the Viceroy's triumphal promenade in the Persian Gulf. The Tibet Mission is represented to be rather the result of a feeding on the part of Lord Curzon that this promenade had not altogether succeeded. M. Berard notes the coincidence if the appearance of certain bellicose articles in the "Times," which, he says, excited Japanese Chauvinism, with the arrival in London of Sir Walter Lawrence, Lord Curzon's private secretary; and he goes on to enquire what vital interests they are for which Lord Curzon is willing to sacrifice the peace of the world. After a description of Tibet—which contains nothing particularly interesting to English readers—he declares that Lord Curzon's desire to force Tibet to carry out her treaties of commerce is only a pretext, and that the Viceroy has really scented a grand Russo-Chinese conspiracy lurking behind this resistance of Tibet. M. Berard has hardly yet developed his theme, the completion of which will be awaited with interest. Meanwhile everyone will be grateful to him for the admirable map which he has reproduced, showing not only Tibet, but the Russian, Indian, and Chinese territories with which it is surrounded.—"Review of Reviews."

## BENGAL RABI CROPS.

The Department of Land Records and Agriculture Bengal, has issued the following forecast of the Rabi Crops of Bengal for 1903-1904:—

This forecast furnishes estimates of the area and outturn of the rabi crops, with the exception of wheat, cotton, oilseeds, and sugarcane, for which separate forecasts are issued. The crops included in this forecast are summer rice, barley, gram, tobacco, poppy, and other food and non-food crops which are harvested between February and April. These latter embrace the important pulses, kalam, mung, peas, lentils, khesari and kurti, also buckwheat, cheena, potatoes, yams, melons, chilies and other spices as well as oats and rabi vegetable crops.

The heavy October rains favoured the retentions of moisture by the soil for the rabi crops. In November light showers were obtained all over the Province except in Bihar, where, however, the bulk of the rabi crops is raised. In December there was hardly any rain. The crops in Bihar were much benefited by the January rains. Light showers were also obtained in January in Chota Nagpur and North Bengal. In February the rainfall was more copious and general. On the whole, therefore, the season was favourable for the growth of crops.

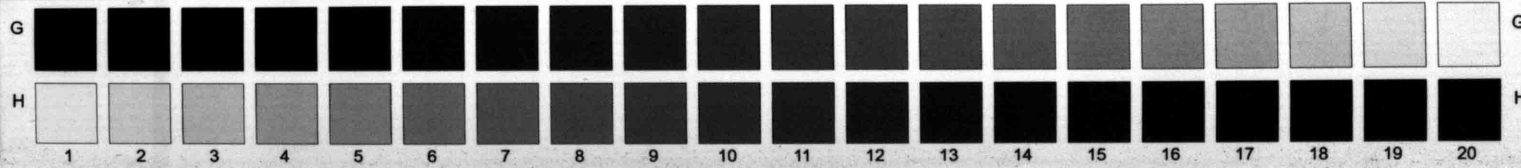
Excluding the areas under wheat, oil-seeds, cotton, and sugarcane, the normal area sown with the various rabi crops in the Province amounts to, according to the District Returns, which are summarised in Appendix I, 10,053,300 as against 10,017,800 acres, which was the normal area sown last year. The change is due to the revision of estimates of normal area under the crops under report by the District Officers of Midnapur, Pabna, Tippera, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, and Ranchi. The area actually shown this year is estimated at 9,606,200 against 9,242,200 acres sown last year.

From Appendix I it will be seen that Darjiling and the Sonbhat Parganas expect a crop of over 100 per cent. Six districts, viz., Rajshahi, Rangpur, Backerganj, Pabna, Gya, and Malda expect 100 per cent. crop. In thirteen districts the estimates vary from 90 to 99 per cent., and in twelve others between 80 and 89 per cent. Eleven districts anticipate a crop between 60 to 79 per cent., while Jalpaiguri expects an outturn of 51 per cent.

According to the estimate of the District Officers, the outturn for the Province, as a whole, amounts to only 87 per cent. of a normal crop as against 86 per cent., which was their estimate for last year. Considering, however, the favourable conditions that generally prevailed this year for rabi crops and specially for the summer rice, I would raise the general estimate to 90 per cent., and the estimate in the case of summer rice to 95 per cent.

As shown in Appendix II the gross yield of summer rice for the Province may be put down at 2,923,800 cwt., as against 3,283,300 cwt. of last year.

The Political Resident at Aden has, with the sanction of the Viceroy, sent a circular to all Indian and neighbouring ports, stating that he prohibits the conveyance to or landing of any indigent aliens at Aden, and forbids any assistance to be given with that object to such undesirables.





THE  
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 10, 1904.

## CRITICISM BY CARICATURE.

In a certain country which was governed by an alien race, an educational reform was needed. The Government undertook to do the needful, but the people objected on the ground that as they were vitally interested in the subject, the reform should be suggested by themselves, and not by those who had no leading interest in the country and who knew very little of their manners, customs and social conditions of life. They further contended that they had some representatives in the Council who knew much better what they needed than the alien officials, and the Government therefore should leave the matter in their hands.

The members of the Government contested this view. They said that they derived their information from officials who spent the best portion of their lives in the country; they were also in a position to take a more comprehensive view of the situation; and they were therefore the real representatives of the people and must have a supreme voice in the matter of the educational reform. The other contention of the members of the Government was that, as they were to find the funds they should have the absolute liberty of calling for the same.

The people and the Government thus looked at the matter from two opposite poles. The position, when summarised, stood thus. The people claimed that their representatives in the Council knew their educational needs better than the official members did; the Government denied it and declared that they, and not the so-called representatives, were more fitted to carry out the reforms. The people protested against the pretension of the official members to represent their views and sentiments, but the Government asserted that the officials were the real representatives of the country. The people denied the right of the Government to appropriate public funds as its own; the Government scouted this idea with great emphasis.

All these points were decided by votes in the Legislative Council, which was composed of twelve officials, sworn to carry their object at any price, with half-a-dozen obedient following of non-official members. Four or five "natives" were permitted to take part in the proceedings of the Legislature, who, however, were without a leader. The first point submitted for discussion was whether the natives of the soil or the alien officials were better fitted to undertake the educational reforms of the country. The "native" members declared for the former, and the eleven officials for the latter, the President, from a high sense of honour, declining to vote. Five against eleven—the point was decided in favour of the officials.

A "native" member proposed an amendment to the effect that the "natives" were as well qualified to take charge of the educational reforms of the country as the alien officials were. But the amendment was lost, the eleven officials voting against it, but the President abstained from voting.

The second point, namely, who were the true representatives of the people, was decided precisely in the same manner. The eleven official members voted for the officials, and the "native" members for the people. So the former gained a solid victory; the President, for the sake of fair play, remained neutral.

A "native" member proposed an amendment to the effect that they both represented the people. An official member, however, suggested the following modification, namely, that they both represented the country when the "native" members agreed with the officials. The last amendment was put to the vote. It was opposed by the "native" members, but triumphantly carried by the eleven official members, the President, as before, remaining as impartial as a rock.

The third point, that is to say, to whom did the public funds belong—to the Government or to the people—was then discussed. "As our constituents raise the money they belong to them," said the representatives of the people. "As we apportion the grants, they belong to us," said the officials. A hot discussion followed, and seeing that it was taking too much time of the Council, the President suggested that the shortest way of settling the matter was to submit it to the vote. This was done and the eleven officials won another victory.

The Government-appointed non-official members, as they owed their seats to Government, naturally thought it their duty to follow the official members implicitly, and thus the eleven officials all along received their support.

The official in charge of the Educational Bill then delivered a speech, explaining the object and scope of the reform. His official colleagues with their following cheered him, the representative members remaining silent. He was followed by an official member who declared that his friend had traversed all the points necessary in the discussion, and he agreed with every one of them.

The third official member said that the speech was a masterpiece of its kind.

The fourth said that the speech was the ablest that he had ever heard.

The fifth said that the speech was unanswerable.

The sixth said, it was not only unanswerable but unassailable.

The seventh said that the speech was transcendently high.

The eighth called "encore," but this was not permitted under the rules of the Council.

The remaining official members and some of the obedient followers also declared themselves in the same way.

The "native" members disagreed with the officials from the beginning to the end. They then proposed 81 amendments all of which, with one or two minor ones, were lost, the eleven with their following voting against them. The officials proposed 25 amendments, all of which were carried, the "native" members opposing them.

The President then brought the business to a close by a speech. He could not understand why was the reform opposed. Had it not been supported by eleven against four or five? What more could one do? It was by the majority of votes that business was carried on everywhere. What more did the people

expect from him? The President, however, could not help acknowledging, though not openly but in the heart of his hearts, that there was some screw loose somewhere. For, why was not the reform accepted with acclamation of joy, on the other hand, why was it received with groans throughout the country, when it had been supported by eleven votes, or rather eighteen votes including those of the official following, against four? The President has not yet been able to solve the problem.

## SIR A. FRASER'S SPEECH ON THE LOCAL BUDGET.

This speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the local budget, shows, we regret, some irritation on his part. Nay, more, the manner in which he treated the remarks of some of the non-official members was a little harsh. We are sincerely sorry for this change in Sir Andrew Fraser; for, in his heart of hearts, he is good and sweet, and incapable of hurting a fly. The chief thrust of His Honour's displeasure was directed against the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose. And why? Because, as His Honour, we are glad, was pleased to explain, the Hon'ble member did not congratulate him on his Financial Statement. But, if His Honour expected congratulation from every member, why did he not protest, like his predecessors, against the unfair financial dealings of the Supreme Government with regard to Bengal of which he is now the master?

The Lieutenant-Governor pits three non-official members against Babu Bhupendra Nath and tells him that, if he has not congratulated him, his three colleagues have done it. But is it possible that Sir Andrew, so very intelligent and shrewd, can derive any satisfaction from congratulations coming from such quarters? Two of them, our old friends, Rai Terini Pershad and Babu Sadigram, gave ample evidence of the fact that they had not at all studied the subject of the Provincial Contract from an independent point of view. They came to see that Sir Andrew had supported the new Provincial Settlement and had warmly thanked the Government of India for it. How could they, obliging and loyal as they are, utter anything against the pronouncement of the lord of the Province, under the above circumstances?

As for our young friend, Dr. Ashutosh, he has apparently studied very few subjects with care except the educational and the Municipal question. That he has very slight acquaintance with the circumstances of the country is evident from the fact that he advocated the abolition of the Income Tax—the only tax which touches the pockets of the well-to-do classes irrespective of creed and colour, and which exempts the poorer millions entirely. The abolition of the Income Tax thus means another tax upon the poor, and the proposal was so monstrous as to excite a cry of distress even from the Finance Minister. And, then, Dr. Ashutosh, about whose high talent and acute intelligence there are no two opinions, has yet to grow both in experience, maturity and patriotism before he can establish his representative character upon a solid basis.

That Sir Andrew Fraser, so very discriminating, would attach any value to some formal expressions of congratulations emanating from such sources is what we could never believe. On the other hand, our firm conviction was that His Honour would be pleased, and not annoyed, with the many criticisms of Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose which, though disagreeable, was based upon truth, and would thank him for pointing out mistakes which His Honour was unwittingly led to commit. To our regret, we are sadly disappointed.

It goes without saying that, Sir Andrew Fraser is too honest and too intelligent to demand praise which is not his due. Does His Honour really deserve congratulation on his Financial Statement? At the risk of tiring the patience of our readers by repetition, we shall again describe the real situation. Under the old Financial Settlement, the main sources of income of the Bengal Government were as follows in 1903-04:—

1 share Land Revenue	Rs. 1,00,74,000
1 share Stamps	1,49,25,000
1 share Excise	80,50,000
1 share Assessed taxes	24,75,000
1 share Forests	5,25,000
1 share Registration	8,35,000
Total	Rs. 3,68,84,000

The expenditure incurred in administering the above departments in 1903-04 stood thus:—

1 share Land Revenue	Rs. 41,12,000
1 share Stamps	5,65,000
1 share Excise	4,00,000
1 share Assessed Taxes	93,000
1 share Forests	3,40,000
1 share Registration	4,77,000
Total	Rs. 59,87,000

The net income of the Bengal Government from the above resources was thus Rs. 3,08,97,000.

Let us now examine the estimated financial position of the Bengal Government under the new Settlement in 1904-05:—

1 share Land Revenue	Rs. 1,00,06,000
1 share Stamps	1,01,00,000
1 share Excise	72,19,000
1 share Assessed Taxes	12,57,000
1 share Forest	2,88,000
1 share Full share Registration	17,00,000
Total	Rs. 3,06,00,000

The estimated expenditure for the above is as follows:—

1 share Land Revenue	Rs. 44,00,000
1 share Stamps	3,90,000
1 share Excise	3,59,000
1 share Assessed Taxes	41,000
1 share Forest	1,80,000
1 share Full share Registration	9,70,000
Total	Rs. 63,50,000

The net estimated income for 1904-05 is thus Rs. 2,42,50,000, that is to say, Rs. 66,47,000 less than the last year. The Customs Department is Imperialized, which means an annual loss of 2½ lakhs to Bengal. So the net loss rises up to Rs. 68,97,000 when this amount is added to the above. Against this is to be set off the India Government grant of Rs. 49,06,000 and half of the cost of the Customs Department, namely, Rs. 4,85,000 previously borne by the Provincial Government, but of which it has been relieved under the new arrangement, that is to say, Rs. 40,06,000 plus Rs. 4,85,000, or Rs.

58,91,000. Now deducting this amount from Rs. 68,97,000, the total net loss of Bengal comes to fifteen lakhs of Rupees under the new Settlement.

Surely this is not a matter for congratulation.

Now is this all. The Provincial share in all the principal heads of progressive revenue have been reduced. How His Honour could agree to this arrangement is simply inconceivable to us.

As regards the permanency of the financial relation, well, it is to the interest of the Government of India that the present arrangement should continue as long as possible. For, has it not raised Imperial shares to their utmost limits on all the heads of progressive revenues? It is, however, not correct to say that the Imperial Government has given any guarantee whatever that it will not revise the Settlement after or before five years. On the other hand, it says quite distinctly that, if Imperial necessity requires it, it may come down to fleece the Local Government any time it pleases. So much for the permanency of the Settlement. Babu Bhupendra Nath should have been thanked and not censured for having brought these matters pointedly to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor.

One of the immediate results of the new Settlement is the withdrawal of the five lakhs grant which the previous Government had sanctioned for the assistance of the District Boards. This is to be specially deplored as the Government has money enough to provide for several institutions in which the Europeans are interested.

The reader knows what amount of trouble we had to take to secure this five lakhs for the benefit of the masses in the Muffasil. Then, no provision has been made for water-supply. The Financial Secretary says that, if the District Board contributes one-third, and the land-holding classes the same amount, then the Local Government may contribute another one-third for water-supply. Now suppose the Indians do not contribute anything, will the Indians in Bengal be allowed to die for want of water? And then, how can the District Board find money for water supply without starting its other works? We earnestly trust, His Honour will do something immediately to save the people from the dreadful effects of water scarcity; for the sufferings of the people in this hot season for want of water can better be imagined than described.

## A FEW MORE OBSERVATIONS ON THE BENGAL BUDGET.

The "Englishman" congratulates the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee on "an excellent suggestion when he proposed that the Government of India should make an annual grant from the Imperial revenues to Calcutta as the Imperial capital." Now, what Dr. Ashutosh should have done was not to make such a suggestion at all, for the citizens of Calcutta contribute very little to the Imperial Exchequer. The great bulk of the Imperial fund is raised from the millions residing in the interior of the country outside the limits of the Presidency towns, and their claims should demand the first consideration of the Government. Dr. Mukherjee would have used his opportunities better if he had pleaded the cause of these millions and urged upon the Local Government to ask for grants for the assistance of the District Boards, which, for want of funds, are absolutely in a destitute condition, and unable to look after any of the most urgent needs of the masses.

It is also a noteworthy fact that while the Local Government was led to stop the grant of five lakhs to the Boards, which was sanctioned and continued for three successive years by its predecessor, it could find money for the following institutions:—

(1) For the construction and equipment of a hospital at Kurseong	Rs. 50,000
(2) Young Woman's Christian Association for a Home	15,000
(3) Calcutta Free School for Kindergarten Department	10,000
(4) Kurseong Orphanage	40,000
(5) Nurses' Quarters, Medical College Hospital	150,000
(6) Equipment of the Presidency General Hospital	242,000
Total	Rs. 507,000

All the above allotments are specially outrageous as no additional provision has been made for the medical and sanitary needs of the people. Cholera and malarial fever decimate thousands of villages every year; but no fund is forthcoming to save their inhabitants from these scourges. The previous Government spent about thirty lakhs in building a palatial hospital in Calcutta and fitting it up with electric fans and lights for the sole benefit of the Europeans called the General Hospital, and the present Government had added nearly 2½ lakhs more for its equipment, besides providing two lakhs and sixty-five thousand for several other institutions with which the Bengalees have very little concern.

The Europeans are the wealthiest community in Bengal, and yet it is the poor peasantry of Bengal who must find money for their hospital in Calcutta; for their hospital at Kurseong; for a Christian Home; for a European school on the Kindergarten system; and for a European Orphanage at Kurseong. And just see the fairness of the arrangement. While Rs. 40,000 has been granted to the European Orphanage at Kurseong, only Rs. 5,000 has been sanctioned for the Hindu Orphanage in Calcutta! Similarly the vast majority of the nurses are Europeans, and their services, as a rule, are availed of by the European community. Last year two lakhs of Rupees were allotted for the construction of quarters for these nurses in the Medical and Eden Hospitals. A further sum of one lakh and fifty thousand has been set apart for the same purpose for the next year.

But it is the proceeds of the taxes that Jamir Shaikhs and Shyam Mandals pay which will be utilized for the luxury of the Europeans who contribute practically nothing to the Provincial Exchequer. Such an arrangement can never be justified on moral grounds. It is all the more monstrous as millions in Bengal know not what medical help is, and tens of thousands die annually for want of medicine and medical treatment. Rich men should bear the burden of the poor; that is the law of God, and that is what Jesus Christ, and other Prophets preached. What we, however, find here is that the European community, though hundred times richer than the Bengal agriculturists, far from helping the

latter, are benefiting themselves at the cost of these poor wretches. Is India really a God-forsaken country where all moral laws can be trampled down with impunity? Fancy that starving millions are required to provide for hospitals and other necessities of the European community lolling in wealth!

With reference to the stoppage of the annual grant of five lakhs to District Boards, the Hon'ble Mr. Shirree was pleased to say that, "the grant in question was made for three successive years, but, on each occasion the warning was given that its continuance was doubtful." The Financial Secretary does not say who gave this warning, but what we find in the last two Financial Statements in reference to this matter is as follows: In the Financial Statement for 1902-03, it is stated that "the estimate for 1902-03 is Rs. 14,00,000, and includes a provision of five lakhs for improving the financial position of District Boards." The last year's Financial Statement says that "the estimate for 1903-04 is Rs. 19,50,000, and includes a provision of five lakhs for special grants to District Boards." The warning, to which Mr. Shirree refers, is thus not to be found in any of the previous Financial Statements.

Granting that such a warning was given, why did not the Local Government fight for its continuance, knowing as it ought to have done, that not only have more duties been thrown upon the Boards than they have money to perform, but the bulk of the Road Cess Fund, which constitutes practically the only Fund of the Board and which belongs to the people, every piece of it, has been swallowed up, since the last twenty-five years, by works the cost of which ought to have been borne by the Local Government.

In this way, crores of Boards' money have been unjustly appropriated by the Local Government, and the annual return of five lakhs would have been but a very partial restoration of the debt which the Government owes to the Road-Cess-payers. The most astonishing part of the affair is that, the plea of no fund was not raised when the question of grants to a number of European institutions was before the Government, but its coffer was found empty when the matter of the continuance of the grant of five lakhs for the benefit of the poor people who pay the tax was brought forward for settlement!

The most regrettable and alarming feature of the Lieutenant-Governor's budget speech is the announcement that His Honour is not at all desirous of taking the public into his confidence when he has to deal with public questions. As the reader knows, the whole of Calcutta is in a state of agony over the proposed City Improvement Scheme, specially as a rumour has been set afloat that a five per cent death duty will be imposed in this connection upon the land and house-owners of the town. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose interpellated the Government to ascertain the truth or falsity of the rumour, but the reply was beautifully vague. Both he and the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee referred the matter in their speeches, and this is the reply they got from His Honour:—

"We have no doubt submitted our recommendations regarding the Improvement Scheme, but we are not going to say what these recommendations are, nor to propound any scheme either for admiration or criticism by the public until we have heard what the Government of India have to say in the matter. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose tried to draw us on the subject and to obtain information from us by his criticism on the scheme. We shall not tell him whether what he had heard is true or not, but we shall keep all these things deep down in our bosoms as official secrets."

Now, pray, why should His Honour keep the matter concealed deep down in the recesses of his heart, when the public are vitally interested in it? Or rather, why should not His Honour make his recommendations public for criticism when the rate-payers of Calcutta, and not His Honour, will have to pay seven crores or more to meet the cost of the scheme? His Honour takes credit for having foiled the attempt of Babu Bhupendra Nath to draw him out on the subject. But, we humbly think, he would have been more successful in carrying the people with him, which he says later on he is anxious to do, if, instead of adopting this policy of distrust and suspicion, he had put confidence in the public and placed his recommendations before them.

Of all men, a policy of secrecy suits Sir Andrew Fraser the least. For, by nature, he is frank, affable and confiding. Yet it is difficult even for an angel, to resist the influence of imperialism. Need we tell His Honour the mischief we apprehend from his attitude of reticence? He has naturally got an affection for his recommendations, for they emanated from his brains. So if they are approved by the Supreme Government he will stick to them as if they were his own children. Any criticism on his recommendations afterwards, if they are not agreeable to the people, will thus be of no avail. But if he had laid his scheme before the people before sending it up to the India Government, possibly he might have shaped it, in the light of public criticisms, in such a way as to secure the approval of the whole country for it. The very fact of His Honour's refusal to disclose his recommendations has created the suspicion that they are prejudicial to the interests of the citizens though, we dare say, there is no ground for any such anxiety.

His Excellency the Viceroy has sought to prove with the aid of statistics, that the British Government is faithfully and honestly discharging its duty in regard to the employment of the children of the soil in the public services of the country. It is possible to prove anything with the help of figures the accuracy of which cannot be tested. The old Gopal Bhaur, when asked by the Nawab of Murshidabad to give the exact number of the stars in the firmament, on pain of losing his head if his calculation proved incorrect, put it down for one million sixty-six thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine. When challenged by a member of the Durbar, he silenced him by asking him to count the stars himself and test the correctness of his calculation. We wish His Lordship had given the actual figures, instead of the results of his calculations. But what is the need of learned statistics in the discussion of a subject like this? A few plain points will prove whether or not the Government is honestly and faithfully discharging its duties in this connection. Its duties are to employ the children of the soil in the public services whenever they are

found to be competent. Is the British Government honestly and faithfully doing this? Which the stereotyped plea that the "natives" are not competent, they are backward, etc. But how do the Japs manage their own civil affairs? The Indians are at least as competent as they are in this respect. How did the Indians manage in pre-British days? It is idle to contend that the Indians are not competent; they are competent for anything if only given a fair opportunity. Can the Government show any instance in which the natives of the soil, having had a fair trial, have failed?

This mischief is, indeed, blinding the moral perception of the rulers; the temptation of providing for Englishmen is too great to be resisted. Why did not Lord Curzon frankly admit that, and finish his speech? If he had done that, we would have, we must say, respected him more. To try to prove that the British Government is honestly and faithfully discharging its duty in regard to the employment of the children of the soil in the public services is to add insult to injury. It is not correct to say that the natives of the soil are incompetent. The real fact is, the Europeans, being aliens here, are incompetent to serve in India; and, to enable them to perform their duties, Indians are appointed on small salaries to help them. Thus it is that the District Superintendent of Police is a European and an Indian Inspector is stationed upon him to lead him on. A European official does not know the language of the country, and an Indian interpreter is appointed to explain things to him. That is the way in India. Has Lord Curzon forgotten what he himself said in his Jeypoor speech? Why are the Telegraph, the Railway, the Opium, and other departments almost white and semi-white from the top to the bottom? Even in the new Agricultural College at Pusa, all Indians have been weeded out from the higher posts. There is only one country in the world in which the public services are in the enjoyment of foreigners, and that country is in the absolute possession of England. Need we mention what that country is?

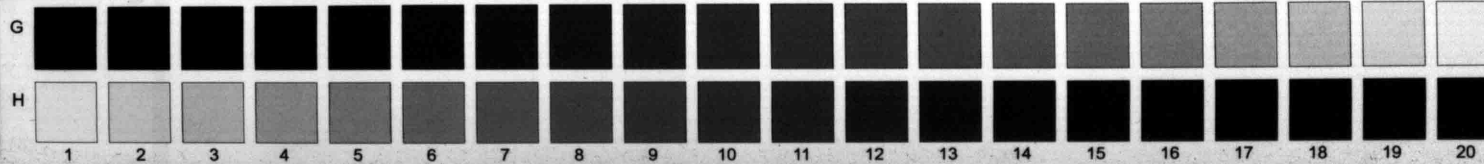
In the opinion of Lord Curzon, not only are the Indians better treated than the Europeans in the matter of public employment, but no Government showed such liberality towards a dependent people in this respect than the British Government in India. The following extract from the letter of Charles W. Momin published in the "Statesman," will at once show that His Excellency was only labouring under a happy delusion when he uttered the above sentiments in his budget speech:—

"Akbar was a great soldier and statesman. He conquered India when a boy of fifteen, and for fifty-one years he reigned; he was the most catholic of statesmen; he had first of all to provide for the gallant Moslem soldiers who had helped him to conquest. Yet he who may be fairly regarded as the first emperor of his race, when he chose his governors and generals for all his civil and military titles and commands, out of 414 high posts, the 'corps de elite,' gave 44, or eleven per cent, to Hindus, and some of them were his bravest warriors. If Akbar, the first, could so overcome the soldierly pride of his Moslems and leave their body with Hindus, what should Lord Curzon, the twenty-fifth Governor-General with such an example and in time of piping peace be able to effect? At any rate Akbar nominated Hindus to eleven per cent of his military governorships. In India there are 2,373 civil and military posts with an annual pay of Rs. 10,000 or more, and just 60, or less than 2½ per cent, are held by natives, Moslems and Hindus combined: such were the figures of the last Parliamentary return. What then becomes of the boast that no race since the Romans have treated the conquered with so much liberality?"

The above ought to settle the question raised by Lord Curzon.

Lord Curzon claimed for British rule in India "a liberality unexampled in the world." Coming from Lord Curzon the statement is an enigma. What is it? Is it poetry, policy, patriotism, or perversity? Poetry has its license, so has policy, so has patriotism; of course Lord Curzon is above perversity. The actions of the rulers of India, however, do not show that they have any faith in the excellence of the rule that they have introduced. If they had any good opinion of their rule, they would not have shown so much nervousness over the fact of the smearing of British opinion, attributed the universal alarm caused by the smearing, to "a bad conscience which makes cowards of us all." Lord Curzon himself began his rule with the assurance that he would never agree to the reduction of a single British troop in India. His Lordship by this expression of opinion showed that his reliance was, not upon the good will of the people, but British bayonets. The innumerable, some of them ridiculous on the face of them, provisions made to secure the British Indian Empire from "native" ill-will, prove the same thing. Even sulphur is weighted with heavy duty. Indeed, the nervousness shown in regard to the permanence of British rule in India by the rulers goes to show that the rule has much better opinion of British rule than those who guide the destinies of the Empire have.

As regards the unexampled liberality, Lord Curzon has to show what alien rule in the history of the world has so completely ostracised the natives of the soil from the public services of their own country, or so thoroughly disarmed an entire nation, or so exhaustively drained the country by absenteeism, as British rule in India has done. There is no doubt that the rulers generally, including Lord Curzon, have the sincere desire of being as liberal as they can be, and have also made gigantic efforts to carry out their generous intentions, but alas! such is the bad luck of India that they rarely, if ever, succeed in their attempts. As for the liberality of the British Government in the matter of employing Indians, Mac Minn, reminds Lord Curzon that while Akbar nominated Hindus to eleven per cent of his military governorships, in India, at the present moment, although there are 2,373 civil and military posts with an annual pay of Rs. 10,000 or more, yet just 60, or less





## SCRAPS.

than 2½ per cent. are held by Indians! The real situation is far worse than this, for posts like military or civil governorships of Akbar are absolutely beyond the reach of the natives of the soil under British rule. Even Russians are more liberal in this respect. "What then becomes of the boast," to quote the words of Mr. MacMinn, "that no races since the Romans have treated the conquered with so much liberality?"

Is Lord Curzon the Kaiser in India, so is the Hon'ble Sir A. Arundel the learned Pandit in the Council of the India Government. Just see what a pass has imperialism reduced him to. The Hon'ble Babu Sree Ram asked:

"Is it a fact that the Government of the North West would only take Europeans and Eurasians for service in the Telegraphic Department?"

And the Hon'ble Sir Arundel replied:—

"The service involves the liability of transfer to any part of the country."

Now is that a fair, nay, an intelligent answer? It is neither the one nor the other. If the Telegraph service requires transfer to other parts of the country, that fact can be mentioned along with the advertisement announcing a vacancy. And is it a fact that the Indians in Government service object to go from one part of India to another, specially in these days when distance has been practically annihilated by a net-work of railways? But what could the Hon'ble member do? He is in the pay of the Government and must support its policy, otherwise his future prospects are for ever marred. So, when he is asked a question which he is bound to answer, and which cannot be answered fairly, he from his difficult position. And hence he has somehow or other to extricate himself gave an answer which was stamped with absurdity on the face of it. Is Government service so precious after all? There are many officers we know who would not serve the Government under conditions as Sir Arundel's answer indicates.

The late illustrious Queen, for whose memory India has been so heavily mulcted, pleaded in her Royal Proclamation that the consideration of creed or color would not influence her Majesty's Indian servants in the distribution of the public services. Imperialism wanted to break this pledge, and Arundel had to justify the breach committed in the best way he could. He might have said that the condition, "no native need apply," was a printer's mistake, or the mistake of a subordinate official. But such an answer would have not served the purpose, which was to replace the Indians by "Poor Whites." After much thought, therefore, the Government sought to wriggle out of its difficult position by throwing all blame upon the Indians who were accused of homesickness which is, however, a fiction. The fact is, bad conscience makes us cowards, and the Government does not venture to trust the Indians in the Telegraph Department lest they betray any State secret. This shows that the rulers themselves have very little faith in the excellence of their own administration; on the other hand, they feel that they are not dealing with the people in the way they should, and hence they constantly suspect the loyalty of the Indians.

BABU Radha Charan Pal, in his able speech delivered at the annual meeting of the S. I. Association and published in these columns the other day reminds the people that another sword of Damocles, like that of the Bengal partition question, is hanging over their heads. Indeed, the Calcutta City Improvement Scheme is neither shelved nor is its progress at standstill. A secret committee, composed mainly of officials and only two Indian gentlemen, is, it is said, has been formed, not to bury the measure but to devise means to meet the cost of the scheme which is estimated at over seven crores of Rupees, that is no doubt the estimated cost, but, it is needless to say that if the project is really undertaken it will mount up to fifteen crores or more. The Government of India have agreed to contribute only fifty lakhs of Rupees towards the cost, and the balance—ten to fifteen crores—is to be raised from the residents of Calcutta. But, is the Government really not aware that it is as impossible to extract a seer of juice from an orange as it is to pump over seven crores of Rupees from the whole of Calcutta? Of course this is possible if the houses of all big men of the city are invaded with an army of armed police and their iron safes plundered, but, as the Government cannot do that, so the proposal of raising, say, ten crores of Rupees, is absurd on the face of it.

Was, however, all know the ways of the Government. Somebody whispered into the ears of Sir John Strachey, the then Financial Minister of the Government of India, that men with an annual income of Rs. 100 or Rs. 8 per manem, pass for wealthy people in this country; and he actually imposed a license tax upon petty traders and dealers earning this pittance. Not only did he impose this tax, but felt no hesitation in declaring from his seat in the Council that a large section of the Indian community who are really rich, namely, the trading classes earning Rs. 100 a year, were contributing nothing to the cost of the administration, and that he was glad that he had been at last able to bring them within the net of taxation! The proposition created horror in the country; but, what of that? The impost was levied and hundreds of tax-gatherers were let loose among the peaceful Indian community to prey upon people earning Rs. 8 a month! Of course such a cruel tax could not be continued for a long time; so, it was, in the course of two years, converted into an Income Tax, and the taxable limit was raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500.

It is therefore possible that a five per cent. death duty on all property-holders in Calcutta may be imposed as Babu Radha Charan, fears, to find a portion of the required money. Indeed, the reply of the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose on this point is very suspicious. So things have come to this pass at last. Why not extend the principle a little further

and bring the whole of Calcutta within the meshes of this death tax. The rumored proposal is to impose the duty only on all property-holders. Why not make it universal? Why not pass a law that, every man, from the coolie to the millionaire, must pay the duty? And, should a virulent type of plague breaks out in the city, more than a crore of Rupees might be raised in a single year. If the coolie leaves no heir behind him to meet the death bill of the Municipality, why, something may be realised from selling his 'lotah' and basket. And, if a man, who dies in Calcutta, must pay a death duty, why should not also one pay it when he is born in this imperial city? So, along with the death duty, a birth duty may also be imposed. And then, we fancy, nobody residing in Calcutta yet pays any rate for breathing air and enjoying sun-shine. So, a further duty on air and sun-shine may also be a feature of the Municipal taxation of Calcutta. They have invented meters for measuring the quantity of water consumed by the rate-payers. They may also invent a machine to ascertain the amount of air breathed by every resident and the quantity of light used by each, and tax him accordingly.

SERIOUSLY speaking the Government should follow the principle laid down by no less an authority than Sir Henry Norman in the matter of Municipal taxation, and which has been quoted by Babu Radha Charan. It is that, "considering the poverty of the bulk of the people it was far better to do without some desirable improvement than to create hardship and discontent by excessive taxation." A sum of ten crores of rupees cannot be raised from Calcutta without ruining the residents of the city. The Government should therefore either give up the scheme or bring forward one which is a less ambitious one. If the Municipal taxes were not spent like water in European quarters and in paying princely salaries to European officers of the Corporation, enough money might have been secured for improving the Indian quarters long ago. The Municipality has been wasting the rate-payers' money in this way, it does not look well on its part now to come forward and demand crores of rupees for the improvement of the city.

ADJAI, a negro, was captured, at the age of 12, by slave-hunters. He was being taken to South America to be sold in a slave-ship. He found there hundreds of men packed within a narrow space. One day these slaves, 187 in number, heard a great noise going on upon the deck. Shots were fired, followed by scuffling and a great shout, after which all was quiet. In short the slave-ship had been taken by an English man-of-war and all the slaves were set free. This Adjai subsequently became a great man known in the world as Bishop Crowther. He became in time a pioneer, a philanthropist and a pious Christian. It was thus while he was captured men to be sold, the British ships scoured the seas to catch the slave-ships and set the slaves free. Who can help being affected deeply at this noble conduct of the British? They spared neither blood nor money to save these oppressed people. Is it meet that these British people should treat the Indians, not as slaves certainly, but as belonging to a subject race, deprived of all political privileges? Do not our kind rulers see that it is as much an anomaly for the Americans to base their Republic on the principle of universal equality and entertain slaves as it is for the British to fight for the freedom of humanity and deprive the Indians of all important political privileges?

An institute of animal psychology has been created in Paris, under the patronage of scientists, for the purpose of studying the physical faculties of the brute creation. It is a kind of school of experiment on the mental powers of different animals. A circus has been built at Vincennes with an arena thirteen yards in diameter. In the arena an animal is placed, together with a problem puzzle. Four hundred spectators are seated around to judge the extent to which he acts "reasonably" in an attempt to solve the problem. Taking into consideration the nature of the experiments which have already been conducted, the spectator draws an imaginary picture of 400 members watching with French enthusiasm out scientific self-restraint, a puzzle for contriving shifts to drink out of a deep vessel, and the thoughtful efforts of a crane to eat soup from a shallow dish. The first experiment was with a lion. The king of beasts was placed in the arena. Meat was brought in and placed in the box, the lid of which was closed. Would he open the lid or smash the box? The psychologists watched anxiously as the lion carefully examined the box. Then when he lifted the lid with his teeth and extracted the meat they applauded enthusiastically, and unanimously voted that he was acting "reasonably." The next experiment was with a monkey. Some nuts were placed in a closed box with a mirror on the inside. "Jack" not only ate the nuts, which was undoubtedly reasonable, but according to the report, "he used the mirror to make his toilet and has now become so coquettish of his new acquisition, that he spends much of his time looking at his own reflection." It was also voted unanimously that he was acting with "reason." Alas! instead of spending their energy in these frivolous pursuits, if the Europeans had spent it in self-examination they might have done some real good to themselves. Their duty is not to see whether animals sometimes act like men, but whether men act like animals or not. Indeed, when men fight from pride or greed, they are worse than brutes.

It was considered possible that trouble might occur in Dir on the Chakdarrak-Chitral route, owing to the illness of the Nawab of that State, but the country is reported to be quiet. The Nawab has only partially recovered from his paralytic seizure, but is still able to exercise his authority.

During his tour in the Southern Mahratta country, His Excellency the Governor of Bombay took part in a bear fight, a kill having occurred within a few miles of camp. Two tigers were marked down, but unfortunately broke out of the beat before they could be brought up to the guns. Subsequently His Excellency shot a fine bear, and the other members of the party accounted for a panther and a sambar.

Lady Amphil, accompanied by her children, Major Molesworth, Medical Officer, and Mrs. Molesworth will reach Simla on Monday afternoon, and proceed to Mashobra, where she will stay until Lord Amphil's arrival. Lord Amphil, accompanied by Major Campbell, Military Secretary, and Aides-de-Camp, will leave Madras on the 18th instant by the P. and O. s.s. "Golconda." On arrival at Calcutta His Excellency will travel up by special train and reach Simla on the 24th instant.

A number of residents of Cuttack, including several respectable and independent landlords, have submitted a petition to the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal, alleging grave and various insinuations against the Special Sub-Registrar of the place. Amongst the signatories, the majority are Mahomedans; and it is a pity that the Sub-Registrar, who is also a Mahomedan and, we are told, a resident of the district, and his co-religionists should differ. We are also told that the officer is stationed at Cuttack for the last eleven years. We hope the Inspector-General will make an inquiry into the matter.

There is one important item of news cabled by Reuter and confirmed by correspondents from the seat of war. It is said that the Russian settlements at Yonampoh have been plundered and burned, thus indicating that the Russians have been driven from this stronghold at the mouth of the Yalu and have fallen back on Antung, on the Manchurian side of the river. It was in 1896 that Russia obtained a timbercutting concession at Yonampoh and made this a pretext for occupation in defiance of the strong objections of Japan. Since that date she has been making herself secure in that Korean town, but the thoroughness of Japanese advance has now compelled her to evacuate it and to submit to the labour of years being destroyed. The Russian troops seem to have been driven out of all the positions they held south of the Yalu, and their only hope of preventing the Japanese invasion of Manchuria now lies in the defence of Antung, which has been strongly fortified for that purpose.

Misfortune, says the Englishman's dogs own footsteps in Nigeria. In January last news came to hand of a collision in the Bassa country, in which a small party under Captain D. S. P. O'Riordan and Mr. O. Amvatt-Borney was cut up, both the above officers being killed, and only 15 out of 50 men forming the escort escaping with their lives. Bassa, the Colonial Office stated at the time, "a little known and very wild province, inhabited by extremely truculent tribes such as the Okpotos and Munchis, who practise barbarous rites and are continually guilty of outrages." Sir Frederick Lugard, the High Commissioner, had a reputation to suit, and he lost no time in fitting out the usual punitive expedition. From the latest telegrams, however, it would appear that the expedition, instead of inflicting punishment upon the sanguinary Okpotos and Munchis, has itself been somewhat severely punished. The official account is that "heavy fighting" has taken place, and that the British square has been broken—in other words that the punitive force has been overwhelmed.

The other day a very big and sensational trade-mark case was disposed of at the Calcutta High Court. The subject-matter of dispute in that case was a certain preparation of camel hair. The next sensational trade-mark case came from Madras. On Wednesday last at the Madras High Court before Mr. Justice Moore, Messrs. W. and T. Avery, of Birmingham, sought to restrain by injunction a local Indian merchant from using on his weigh beams the Tiger Trade Mark of their firm. The application was supported by affidavits by Mr. Harper, partner of Messrs. Oakes and Co. and Mr. King an assistant in the same firm, and Mr. Grimes, a representative of the Indian and Eastern Engineer, who testified to the fact that Avery's Tiger Weigh Beams were specially manufactured for India and had acquired a reputation in the Indian market where they had had a large demand for a number of years. The defendant consented to the injunction and to pay the taxed costs of the plaintiffs; the latter agreeing not to press for damages. A decree by consent was accordingly passed.

It seems there is no end of complaints against the railway management. It is high time that the authorities should interfere and do away with the crying scandals of the railway administration. We have shown the other day how a number of passengers—male, female and children—were made to stand under the burning sun of hot March at Amritsar railway station for hours together. We are not aware whether the authorities have yet taken any notice of it or not. Here is another contributed by "Max" in "Capital":—"I hear that the Howrah Station last Thursday night was a scene of almost indescribable confusion owing to the accommodation provided by the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways being wholly inadequate. Passengers were fighting for places in the Punjab and Madras mail trains like beasts at Exhens, and numbers were left behind. Now if the trains departed from the Terminus crammed in this manner, what chance had passengers at wayside stations? The utter unconcern displayed for the passenger traffic is one of the crying scandals of Indian Railway Administration."

A proposal is under consideration to abolish the Licentiate in Law Examination of the Punjab University, and to reduce the L.B. course to two years.

Mr. J. W. Miller, Private Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy, and Mr. O. W. Hodson, Railway Secretary, have arrived in Simla.

The advisability of granting concessions for establishing a motor-car service between Pudukkotta and Tanjore or Trichinopoly is engaging the attention of the Pudukkotta Durbar. Messrs. Ram and Co., of Trichinopoly, are corresponding with the Dewan on the subject; and he hopes soon to hear about it from Messrs. Ally Brothers and Meers, Oakes and Co.

## THIRD SITTING OF THE CHITTAGONG DIVISIONAL UNION.

(From our own Correspondent.)  
Noakhali, April 4.

The third sitting of the Chittagong Divisional Union, held at Noakhali on the 2nd and 3rd April, was a grand success. It was held under a pandal erected on the premises of the R. K. Jubilee School, which was kindly lent by the proprietor of the school, Rai Raj Kumar Dutta Bahadoor. A huge pandal was erected and it was tastefully decorated. 22 delegates came from Chittagong and 12 from Tipperah, among them 6 were Mahomedan gentlemen. The most interesting feature of this Conference was the co-operation of leading Mahomedan gentlemen of this division and of this district. The President of the Reception Committee was a Mahomedan gentleman of position and influence of this town. The Mahomedan delegates were not here for mere show and for mere proof to the outside world that the Conference had their co-operation but they, grey haired gentlemen as well as youngmen, were found to take the liveliest interest in the proceedings and each delivered a nice speech in Bengalee, Urdu or English. The 4th resolution with reference to the partition question was seconded by Moulvi Abdul Sather from Chittagong. This gentleman pointed out that, even if all the arguments of the Viceroy be accepted, the results of this measure would not be beneficial to the people of this Division. The growth of Chittagong means that the trade which is now in the hands of the Indians will pass into foreign hands and the people of the District will fare worse. The 10th resolution with reference to the curriculum in High Schools was proposed by Munshi Kazim Ali Chowdhuri from Chittagong, a hoary-headed gentleman, himself the proprietor of Kazim Ali School at Chittagong. He referred to the recent measures of Government in regard to education, and pointed out that they would injuriously affect the interests of education. He was present at the Conference of Teachers at Chittagong. What he learnt from the Inspector of Schools induced him to think that the cause of education was at stake; and many independent institutions will have to be closed as the proprietors of those institutions will not be able to conform to the standard of efficiency which the Government is going to insist upon.

The 7th resolution regarding improvement of agriculture and the prospect of agriculturists was proposed by Moulvi Abdul Kaddur Chowdhury from Chittagong, himself a practical agriculturist who has made some experiments in the cultivation of potato and melon. He dwelt at length on the necessity of improving agriculture and helping the agriculturists with funds. He stated that once a Shahib after tasting his melon, took a fancy to cultivate it, and did cultivate it on extensive scale which became a source of great profit to him; while for want of necessary help, expert knowledge and funds he has been making experiments on a smaller scale.

The first day's proceedings began at 2-30 p.m. on the 2nd instant. The President-elect Babu Jatra Mohan Sen, entered the pandal amidst loud cheers and the whole assembly stood up in his honor. Moulvi Mujafur Ahmed then welcomed the delegates in a nice Urdu speech. Before addressing the assembly, the President read letters and telegrams, expressing sympathy with the movement, from Moulvi Mahamad Murtaja Hossein Chowdhury, Zemindar, Kazi Munshi Reazjaddin, Zemindar, Tipperah; Babu Bagala Prasano Mazumdar, Retired Deputy Magistrate and a Zemindar of this town, who is ill at Madhupore; Babu Chandra Kumar Roy of Chittagong, a retired Subordinate Judge; Babu Prasano Kumar Roy, Zemindar of Chittagong; and Babu Kedar Nath Das Gupta. He then read a letter from Sarala Debi Ghosal soliciting support of the Union to her scheme for creating a Red Cross Ambulance Corps for Japan. The scheme was received with great enthusiasm and some public spirited men paid a subscription of Re. 1 each then and there though I do not think the collection, in spite of their noble example, was very large. The presidential address then took the rest of the time. In the afternoon, the discussions of the Subject Committee took place which lasted till 8-30 p.m.

## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

On the 3rd instant, the Conference met at 11-30 a.m. The proceedings of this day were lively and interesting throughout and great enthusiasm prevailed. When the 4th resolution (partition of Bengal) was proposed Moulvi Abdul Sather, Chittagong, rose to support it. There was an amusing incident in the course of his speech which I must not pass over without noticing. This gentleman referred to the incident of certain Mahomedan delegates' absence during the deliberations of the Subject Committee on the previous day when the resolution with reference to the partition question was discussed, and he thus explained the diffidence on the part of the members in question: "whatever we may think of the measure Lord Curzon thought that by this measure he was conferring a boon on the people. When a master offers his servants a boon, it looks awkward for the servant to refuse it flatly." At this stage there was a cry of "no, it does not look awkward." The speaker continued: "Certainly it looks awkward. Does it not? Think over it a little." This controversy gave rise to several cries of "Is he for the transfer? Is he for the transfer?" The impatience of the audience showed that they had a genuine feeling with regard to this question and that feeling was very strong. The gentleman then continued: "You must listen me to the end and then think of me what you will." Great confusion followed. Cries of "let him go on, let him go on" was heard. The fact is the speaker supported the resolution and ascribed the apathy of those whom he referred to, to natural diffidence on the part of a servant to flatly refuse his master's offers. And yet in the conclusion of his speech he said that he was for the transfer (roars of laughter). He then correcting himself said "Gentlemen, it is only a slip of tongue. I am not for transfer. I am against it."

This day a telegram was received from Babu Norendra Nath Sen, Editor, "Indian Mirror" expressing sympathy with the object of the Union.

The President in his concluding speech gave the lie direct to the insinuation that the District of Chittagong was in favour of the transfer, and that the decision of the District Board of Chittagong means nothing. Babu

Rajani Nath Nandi, Tipperah, in supporting the 4th resolution (partition) said that he was perfectly acquainted with all classes of people of his District and he could assert that there was not a single man in whole Tipperah who would vote for the transfer. The proceedings terminated at about 5 p.m. after cheers were proposed for the chairman and the delegates. The delegates proposed three cheers each for the President of the Reception Committee Babu Hem Chandra Das, Roy Pyari Lal Chowdhury, Moulvi Ayub Ali Chowdhuri and Rai Ramendra Choudhury, whose hospitality the delegates shared, and the volunteers.

Next morning all the delegates met at the house of Babu Radha Kant Aich to consider what step should be taken to raise subscriptions for Babu Jagendra Chandra Ghose's scheme and it was decided to form a Working Committee consisting of Babu Radha Kant Aich, Babu Basanta Kumar Mazumdar and others. It was further decided that efforts should be made to raise sixty-thousand rupees from this district in the course of a year.

The President and the delegates left this town this afternoon. The train carrying them started amidst loud and repeated cheers. Rai Ramendra Choudhury paid Rs. 50 for entertaining the volunteers this evening.

## NOTES FROM MONGHYR.

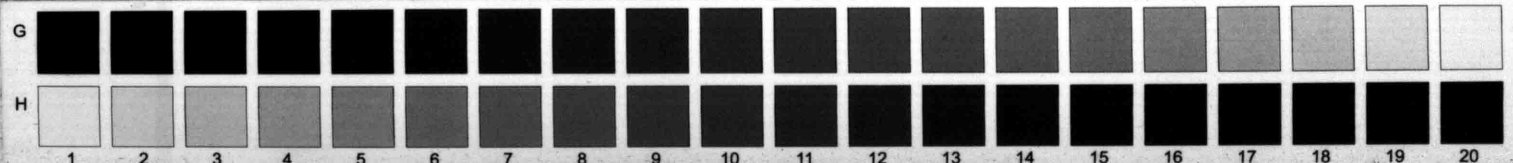
Monghyr, April 4.

## THE PLAGUE.

With the saddest heart, I have to inform you that that implacable fiend—the plague—has broken out in rather an epidemic form in Monghyr, with the exception of a very few quarters, the disease has spread over all others where it has been doing havoc among the doomed population. People have not as yet recovered from the horrible effect of the last year's epidemic, when they have been again plunged into the vortex of the present outbreak. The general rule in Behar was that the fell disease usually breaks out at the end of autumn, rages for the whole of winter and subsides on the appearance of summer; and we had entertained high hopes of immunity this year as the pest did not make its appearance before winter. But alas! All our fond hopes have been dashed to the ground. The disease for the first time appeared in sporadic form in Dalhatta Bazar, a suburb of this town in January last where people from the badly affected parts of Patna Bhagalpur, Gaya and other places brought the contagion; and from thence the poison has spread over other parts of the town. Although this is the first week of April, (when the disease usually dies out), it shows full signs of vigorous life, and the number of daily mortality has risen to about 25. Added to this, another monster in the shape of cholera has made its appearance, and has been doing brisk business in such parts of the town where plague has not as yet shown itself. But the authorities are as sleepy as ever. What could the poor fellows do? The Municipality is too poor a body to cope with the tremendous effects of these horrible monsters. The district authorities are nobodies when question of expenditure on sanitation is concerned. The town is as filthy now, as it had been four years ago, when plague first broke out here, and the Government is as culpably and I should add criminally negligent now in the discharge of its duties to the country as it was before. People are dying untimely deaths in thousands every week from are disease alone and the Government is as callous as ever. It is "takdir ki taseer" that's all.

## THE SESSIONS.

The Criminal Sessions commenced on the 14th March, and is still dragging on. Several cases have been disposed of, and among them, are given the important ones. (1) This was a case of culpable homicide in which several people were charged with causing the death of an old man. The case for the prosecution was that the accused under the influence of liquor forcibly dragged the deceased along the road from a "kalali" where the latter was drinking with the accused and he died from the effects of dragging. The accused admitted to have drunk together with the deceased, but denied having dragged the deceased on the way from the grog shop and said that as it was a very dark night, and the deceased having laid himself down on the way under the influence of liquor and refused to go the accused forcibly lifted him up and took away to his home as they apprehended he would be left in the way killed by jackals and other wild animals. Although the assessors found the accused not guilty, they were given seven years each with hard labour. (2) This was a case of murder from Begusarai, in which the accused was charged with killing a little girl for the sake of her ornaments. Beyond the testimony of one witness who said that he saw the accused with the girl on the eve of the murder there was no other evidence to fasten the guilt to the accused. The Judge in acquitting the accused remarked that there was no evidence that the child was ever killed by any man, as the post mortem officer could only say that it was a girl, but could not say how she came by her death, so horribly the body was mangled and eaten up by wild beasts. The Court also remarked that the police had manufactured evidence to secure a conviction. (3) The third case was one of cheating, under extraordinary circumstances—so far as this part of the country is concerned—such cases are ordinary occurrences in Calcutta. This also hails from Begusarai. The complainant was going on pilgrimage to Juggernath. The accused some 4 or 5 in number, who are accomplished swindlers having got scent of money with the complainant, managed after a good deal of dramatic acting to sell a "silver" ornament to the complainant for Rs. 60. The ornament was made of brass, silvered over. Somehow or other the complainant had suspicion about the genuineness of the article and demanded back his money. The other swindlers fled but one of them was caught and made over to the police. The others were subsequently arrested. They being old offenders, were given seven years each. (4) The fourth case was one of rioting with murder. The prosecution story was that the complainant's cattle having damaged the standing crops in the accused's field, the latter in a body about 20 or 25 in number armed with lathies went to the complainant's Khalihaan, and looted away his crops and in the fight that ensued they killed one of complainant's men. The defence denied the charge in toto and said that the





complainant who had a grudge with the accused himself killed the man and wanted to fasten the guilt to them. The defence was represented by Mr. Ali Inam, the celebrated young barrister of Patna. The accused were all acquitted and the court totally disbelieved the story of the prosecution. (5) The fifth case was also of murder. A little girl of 12 was accused of killing another little girl of 9 throwing her into a well. The evidence disclosed that the accused was a thin weak girl almost of the same height as the deceased who was robust and stronger built, and the well having a raised wall all round to the height of 3 to 4 feet, it was physically impossible for a weak girl like the accused to throw the deceased into the well. Moreover there was no motive for the accused to commit the murder. The case which was ably defended by Babu Bhupal Chandra Mazumdar, B.L., an intelligent and rising young pleader of the local bar ended in an acquittal. Much credit is due to the talented young lawyer for his skill in mercilessly exposing the sins of the police.

#### THE MAHURAM.

The Mahuram festivities came off with usual grandeur in spite of the baneful influence of the terrible epidemics. The Anjuman-i-Islam or the great religious congress of the Mussalmans was held for three days in this town. The assembly was well attended by all sections of the communities. Learned moulvis from different parts of the country discoursed on religion.

#### WAR NEWS.

Japan estimates that her war expenditure was £1,000,000 weekly throughout 1903.

The crew of the Russian gunboat "Mandjur" are returning to Russia on parole.

General Yaman, at the head of 5,000 Japanese troops, is constructing a railway in Korea from Seoul to Wiju.

The Russians have sunk hulks at the entrance of Port Arthur, thus reducing the fairway to 300 feet.

Russia is negotiating for the construction within the year of 12 torpedo destroyers. Some of them are to be built in German shipbuilding yards.

Japan has withdrawn the permits issued to War Correspondents now at Ping-Yang and Anju in Korea, and has ordered their return to Seoul.

The Marconi system of wireless telegraphy failed to work between Chemulpho and Chifu, owing to the currents from the Japanese vessels.

Japanese Cruisers are searching for the Vladivostok Squadron in the neighbourhood of Saghalien, a Russian island to the north of Japan.

On the advice of General Kuropatkin, the Czar has now definitely refused to permit General Prince Louis Bonaparte to proceed to the Far East.

Admiral Alexeiff's report that a Japanese destroyer had been sunk and the cruiser Takasago heavily damaged by shell fire in the fourth attack on Port Arthur is officially denied.

The "Daily Mail's" correspondent at Neuchang states that General Kuropatkin has telegraphed to General Strossel that he must hold Port Arthur with the present garrison.

A decoration equivalent to the Victoria Cross has been bestowed upon Engineer Minamisawa, of the Japanese destroyer "Kasumi" for the gallantry which he displayed in the various engagements before Port Arthur.

General Kuropatkin corrects the interview with him, cabled on the 14th instant. He states that he hopes to finish the war by the end of the year.

At the Nicolaieff dockyards, the Russians are building three 28-knot destroyers and a swift cruiser, and a battleship will shortly be commenced. Another battleship is also to be built at Sebastopol.

Reports have been received from St. Petersburg to the effect that a group of international financiers have undertaken to raise a war loan of £40,000,000 for Russia if her present national resources are exhausted.

Russia has intimated that, inasmuch as Korea has joined Japan, she must be considered a belligerent. As a result of Russia's intimation, 2,000 Korean troops have left Seoul for the north.

Norwegian vessels that have arrived at Shanghai report that the bombardment of Port Arthur on the 10th instant practically demolished all the buildings in the main street.

The "Daily Express" states that, during the bombardment of Port Arthur, one Japanese shell killed 19 officers and men on the Russian battleship "Retvizan." Another shell burst in the midst of a crowd gazing at the conflict from a point of vantage and killed 25, a third shell set fire to a Russian Cruiser, supposed to be the "Diana," and 80 Russians perished.

Since the commencement of the war up to the present Japan has spent about £5,000,000 on the war, and it is estimated that by the end of this month the disbursements will have reached £15,600,000. The expenditure on the war from April to December next is estimated at £38,000,000, and it is proposed to meet this by the issue of Exchequer bonds, the extension of the tobacco monopoly, and the creation of a salt monopoly.

#### News of the Day.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and Lady Rivaz are expected to arrive at Simla on the 15th proximo.

The Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel K.C.S.I., Public Works Member of Council, has arrived in Simla after a brief tour through the Punjab.

Sir Krishna Murthi, Dewan of Mysore, has ordered thanksgivings in all Muzrai Institutions throughout the State for the recovery of the Maharaja's brother at Ajmere.

Mr. C. W. Hodson, Officiating, Secretary to the Government of India for Railways, Public Works Department, has arrived in Simla, and travelled over the Kalka-Simla Railway.

A contemporary's correspondent relates the curious experience of a member of the Tibetan mission, who found something black in his despatch box among important papers. When it turned out to be frozen ink, he reverently thanked his stars that there had been no thaw.

An interesting Bunyan relic—the original warrant for the arrest of the author of the "Pilgrim's Progress"—will be sold at Sotheby's next month. It was exactly 230 years ago since Bunyan was apprehended and imprisoned in Bedford Gaol.

It is likely that in addition to the new field guns to be sent out to India during the current year some heavy guns will be provided for coast defence. These will replace guns of old pattern which have been in position for a number of years.

It is officially notified that Lord Kitchener and Staff arrive at Bangalore from Mysore at 7 p.m., on Sunday, the 10th, but as the duration of His Excellency's stay is not known, only an inspection parade of all the troops in the garrison has been ordered for Monday, the 11th.

The first biennial meeting of the Madras Mahomedan Educational Association took place on Monday evening at the Pachaiyappa's Hall with the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. T. Boddam in the chair. There was a fairly large gathering of Mahomedans including the "elite" of the city. The report presented by the Secretary, Mr. Mirza Hashim Ispahani, was adopted and after the office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected, the President delivered a very interesting speech advancing the cause of Mahomedan education.

An Akayab correspondent telegraphs on the 6th instant:—A severe cyclonic storm has passed through here. It began about 12-30 p.m. yesterday and continued all night, with slight rain. In Akayab harbour three paddy boats, laden with paddy and rice, sank. Several boats lying alongside the different steamers were damaged. A number of smaller boats (sampans) were carried ashore and seriously damaged, others drifted towards the Bay. A serang on the ss "Byculla" was severely hurt. Three sampans were reported lost at sea with their occupants.

The colonisation operations in the Jhelum Canal Colony are stated in a Government resolution to have been attended with excellent results. An ample number of applicants for grants on horse-breeding conditions have been secured without difficulty, and it has been possible to select men in need of land. The prices realised at Sargodha and Bhal Mal, Rs. 600 and Rs. 800 per site, respectively, show what an excellent reputation the Punjab Canal Colonies and their Administration have achieved with the general public. A complete plan is now to be made out for feeder-roads for the Jhelum Colony.

The current issue of the "Mysore Gazette" contains the Regulation to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860, as it is in force in Mysore, which came into operation from the 1st instant. In regard to the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is laid down that Police Officers and Magistrates in Mysore may exercise, with respect to European British subjects, the same powers as may be exercised with respect to European British subjects by Police Officers and Magistrates who are not Justices of the Peace, respectively, in places in British India beyond the limits of the Presidency Towns. A Regulation for the Registration of Literary, Scientific, and Charitable Societies is also published.

The following telegram has been received at St. Petersburg:—In the bombardment the new town sustained the greatest damage. A shell burst 8 yards from the house of a lawyer, named Sidoriski. The wife of Col. Baron Frank, who was in the house at the time, was struck by a number of fragments of the shell, and her daughter's head was blown off. A young lady named Walersitch was so badly injured in the right breast that she succumbed in the hospital to which she was removed. In addition to this, a Chinaman was killed, and a workman and several Chinese were wounded. Two trucks in the railway station were damaged. General Stossel and his staff, who were on the battery, were sprinkled with splinters of shell, but were not injured. On Golden Hill Lieutenant Wachtin sustained bruises, and a soldier was wounded. On Electric Cliff, in the new town, two sentries of the 27th Regiment were also wounded.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, C.I.E., arrived at Kumool from Madras on the 24th ultimo, in connection with a special enquiry into forest matters. He was met on the platform by the Collector, Deputy Collector, Conservator of Forests, District Forest Officer, and a large number of villagers. He was busy the first day in consulting the District officials, who all left the Station the same night, except the Deputy Collector, who left on the 25th, and had a long interview with Mr. Sim that day. On the 26th and 27th ultimo Mr. Sim had interview with the raiyats and cultivators from all parts of the District, who came to lay before him in detail their grievances regarding Forest affairs and to suggest remedies. The bungalow during these three days was surrounded by raiyats and presented a very animated appearance. Mr. Sim heard every individual and took notes. The way he enquired and the freedom with which the villagers approached him and laid their grievances before him clearly shows how he has endeared himself to the raiyats, who are mostly uneducated, and can only speak freely to somebody for whom they have a great regard and trust. Mr. Sim understood the grievances of the raiyats clearly and, wherever necessary, Rao Bahadur Dhona Subbarao explained to them the replies he had to give to their petitions.

#### Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Bank of Bengal rate of interest on demand loans remains at 6 per cent.

Indian Treasuries.—Mr. Waterfield has been posted as Assistant Controller of Indian Treasuries.

Calcutta Port.—The Manager, Eastern Bengal State Railway System, is appointed to be a Commissioner of the Port of Calcutta, vice Mr. W. A. Dring.

A New Epidemic.—The local paper says that a new epidemic the symptoms whereof are exactly like that of the bubonic plague has, since a few days been furiously raging in Rajshahye. Measles, accompanied by summer diarrhoea, is also cropping up here and there.

L. G's Departure.—On Thursday afternoon at 4-50 p.m. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, left Sealdah Station by special train en route for Darjeeling. His Honour was accompanied by Lady Fraser, Mr. Stephenson, Private Secretary, Captain and Mrs. Maidlow, and Captain Rennie, A.D.-C. The departure was private.

Viceroy's Executive Council.—The Viceroy's Executive Council assembled at Simla earlier than usual this year. Among the members, Sir Denzil Ibbetson and Sir Arundel Arundel have already arrived. Sir Edmund Elles is expected on the 12th, Mr. Erle Richards on the 16th, Sir Edward Law on the 18th, the Viceroy on the 12th, and Lord Kitchener not till the end of this month.

The Plague.—Eighty-five cases and seventy-six deaths from plague were reported in Calcutta on Thursday, when the total mortality from all causes was 159, the average of the previous five years being 133. The seizures and deaths as distributed among the several Districts were as follows:—No. 1, 26 cases and 30 deaths; No. 2, 36 cases and 28 deaths; No. 3, 13 cases and 10 deaths and No. 4, 10 cases and 8 deaths.

A Divorce Suit.—At the High Court on Wednesday before Mr. Justice Henderson, Mr. Leslie applied for leave to file a petition for dissolution of marriage on behalf of the wife against the husband on the grounds of cruelty, adultery, and desertion. The parties are residing in the appellate jurisdiction of the High Court. His lordship allowed the petition to be filed. The names of the parties did not transpire.

Tibetan Casualties in the 1888 Campaign.—The heavy casualties suffered by the Tibetan army at Garu may be compared with those of the 1888 campaign as given below:—"Joyluk Stockade": 32 killed, no attempt being made to cut up the fugitives "Gnatong": The Tibetan attack was repulsed with "heavy loss but the British troops were not allowed to pursue the enemy (Sikkim "Gazetteer") "Takola Ridge" (September): The Tibetan army, 11,000 strong, lost "nearly a tenth of their number" (Sikkim "Gazetteer"), and broke into Bhutan before the British advance, no further opposition being offered.

Brutal Assault on a Young Woman.—The "Burdwan-Sanjibance" to hand reports that the five accused persons, who by turns accordingly to their option and convenience systematically and for a considerable period of time committed criminal assault on a young woman of fourteen, have all been sentenced by the Sessions Judge to ten years' rigorous imprisonment. The ruffians forcibly took the poor girl away out of her husband's house and when her health gave way to the fiendish attack and assault they brought her back to the place of her husband and left her lying close to it in a most painful and deplorable condition.

Defamation and Hurt.—Mr. Remfry, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Desbruslais and Mr. Palmer, applied, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, for process against Mr. J. H. de Lord (Sr.) and Mr. H. de Lord and his younger brother. It appeared that Mr. J. H. de Lord had leased a lower flat from the complainants, who subsequently had occasion to take a S. C. Court bailiff to attach de Lord's property before judgment. The de Lords objected to the seizure and attacked the complainants, defaming their character and belabouring them with sticks and blows. The Magistrate granted summonses against the three defendants on charges of defamation and hurt.

Juror's Allowance.—The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has to prescribe the following rule for the payment by Government of a daily allowance to jurors and assessors summoned to attend in criminal trial in Bengal:—"The District Magistrate shall, order payment on the part of Government to any juror summoned to attend his Court and the Sessions Judge shall order payment on the part of Government to any juror or assessor summoned to attend his Court of a daily allowance, for days of attendance at Court only, of not less than one rupee and not exceeding five rupees, in the case of any juror or assessor who may apply orally or in writing for such allowance, and provided that the distance between the usual residence of the juror or assessor and the Court-house which he attends exceeds five miles."

Tibetan Diplomacy.—Says the "Englishman":—"Apparently Sarat Chandra Das is right about the Tibetans, who do not seem to have been nearly so much impressed by the demonstration of Thursday last as might have been expected. Such at least is the impression left by the calm repetition, by the Lhasa General, immediately upon the arrival of the force at Gurm, of the request that the mission should retire. This, of course, fits in with what Sarat Chandra tells us in his book about Tibetan notions of diplomacy. They have, he says, a superstition that 'the whole world will succumb to the power of the Phylings (Russians and English). Neither the Emperor of China nor the combined legions of gods and demi-gods who reside round the golden mount of Kira (Sumeru) will be able to arrest the progress of their arms, or the miracles of their superior intellect. It is the policy of the Tibetans to keep them at a distance, not by open hostilities, but by temporising and diplomacy."

The interesting question of the extension of the provisions of the Punjab Alienation Land Act to agricultural land in Municipal limits in certain cases is now under official consideration.

#### TELEGRAMS.

##### REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

#### THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 6.  
The Russian sappers have completed fortifications along a line extending through the towns of Taipin and Takushan in Southern Manchuria. Artillery is now being placed in position. There is a similar entrenched line between Liaoyang and Tengkwanhong. These lines render the headquarters at Mukden almost impregnable. Big guns are being mounted at Mukden.

Great indignation is felt at Belgrade at the Tsar's refusal of the committee's proposal to raise a corps of five hundred Serbians to assist the Russians. One thousand applications have been received.

London, April 7.  
A Telegram from St. Petersburg states that Admiral the Grand Duke Alexis's yacht, the "Svetlana," is being converted into a cruiser. Her woodwork is replaced by iron. She joins the squadron which is starting for the Pacific in June. The squadron will consist of the "Dmitri Donkoi, Ostabye" and "Aurora," four new ironclads of the "Tsarevitch" type, two old and three new cruisers, two old and two new transports, two destroyers, and five torpedoers and carries nine submarines.

Reuter's Correspondent at Tokio states that the Japanese Supply Steamers are safely entering the estuary of the Yalu. The landing is proceeding at various points on the Korean shore and river. The landing is covered by gunboats.

London, April 8.  
Four hundred more German troops have left Hamburg for South-West Africa.

##### RISING OF TONGHAKS.

London, April 8.  
The Russians occupy six of the largest border towns on the Tumen river.  
The Korean Governor of Siensien reports that on the 29th March, nearly three thousand Russian troops from Chongju passed north varying fifty dead and many wounded.

A sudden uprising of Tonghaks has taken place in the neighbourhood of Pingyang. Believing that the war will be detrimental to Korea they have now organised bands for looting.

#### GENERAL.

London, April 6.  
The import returns show that in the past quarter the Lancashire mills took 308,000 bales of American cotton less than in 1903.

It is declared on the highest authority at Paris that there is no hitch in the Anglo-French negotiations. All questions are now practically settled.

London, April 7.  
The Lake Baikal Ice Railway is being taken up.

Generals Ian Hamilton, Nicholson, and Haldane were presented to the Mikado today.

King Alfonso, who started for a fortnight's tour in Catalonia, arrived yesterday at Barcelona, which is a notorious hotbed of republicanism and anarchism. As His Majesty was leaving the Labour Exhibition, a bomb exploded, two persons were injured, and one arrested, was made. No further details have been received.

Colonel Younghusband has replied to the Amban's communication, mentioned on the 4th instant, that he will be at Gyantse in a week's time and hopes to meet him with high Tibetan Officials and make a settlement to prevent further bloodshed.

The United States census for 1903 shows the population to be 79,900,000, being an increase of nearly four millions since 1900.

The Italian Foreign Minister leaves tomorrow to meet Count Goluchowski at Abbazia. The meeting is regarded as specially noteworthy on account of the recent reports of dissensions between Austria and Italy regarding Albania.

Reuter is informed that the Anglo-French negotiations have reached the closing stage. Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Cambon, French Ambassador, held a concluding conference today. A final reference will subsequently be made to Paris Diplomatic instruments. The outcome of the negotiations will probably be signed to-morrow.

Apart from the details published on the 24th March, France guarantees the freedom of British trade in Morocco for thirty years. Britain cedes to France the Los Islands off French Guinea, also a strip of North Gambia. The agreement regarding Egypt and Morocco is embodied in a declaration.

Other questions are embodied in a separate convention.

King Alfonso escaped unharmed in the bomb explosion yesterday, and to-day visited the workmen's quarter at Barcelona and a number of factories, conversing freely with the workmen. His Majesty was everywhere well received.

An excited Presidential Campaign has begun in the United States. The Republicans will certainly renominate Mr. Roosevelt. At present there are two Democrat aspirants, namely, Chief Justice Parker and the millionaire newspaper proprietor, Mr. Hearst supported by Messrs. Cleveland and Bryan, respectively. Mr. Hearst's chief feature is a relentless denunciation of capitalists' trusts, but Mr. Parker is the most likely nomination.

London, Mar. 26.  
The Russians, it is stated, are preparing to make a resolute stand at Liaoyang if expelled from Neuchang. The "Express" states that Russia intends to send overland to Port Arthur 10 destroyers in sections. According to the same authority 3,000 skilled artificers will be sent with the destroyers to put them together at the Port Arthur Dockyard.

German advisers report that the Japanese are constructing a line of large strong forts between Anju and Port Lazareff. Their object is to protect the retreat in the event of being defeated.

In Manchuria thousands of Koreans are working on these forts, under the Japanese engineers.

#### TELEGRAMS.

##### REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

During the naval fight at Port Arthur on the 10th instant the Russians, according to the "Times" correspondent, with the Japanese Navy fought with desperate bravery. One commander was killed early in the engagement, a Lieutenant who succeeded him fell wounded. A Lieutenant was also killed just as the vessel reached its safety.

A Japanese destroyer towed the destroyer Steregutshky out of Port Arthur under heavy fire from the forts. Thirty Russians dead were found on deck, their bodies being terribly mutilated by shell fire.

The crew of Steregutshky numbering fifty-five, all were killed except four. Two sailors locked themselves up in the conning tower, refused to come out and were drowned when the vessel sank.

The "Express" from Nagasaki reports the following details:—

The Japanese main advance into Manchuria is completed. A great force, starting from the mouth of the Tumen river below Possiet Bay will march on Harbin at the junction of Vladivostok and Port Arthur sections of the railway.

Heavy columns are concentrated to the north of Pingyang for an offensive movement against the Russian line in the Yalu Valley.

It adds that the foremost Japanese force occupies the front from Anju towards Michikosen.

It is rumoured that the missing Russian squadron from Vladivostok has been ordered to meet in the Pacific.

Two Chilean cruisers have been purchased by Russia.

The United States refused to agree to Russia's suggestion of neutralisation of New Chwang.

The members of the Russian Army Medical Corps assert that an epidemic of typhoid has broken out among the Japanese troops near Seoul, and Pingyang.

#### INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

#### THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

##### RUSSIAN OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Bombay, April 7.  
M. De Klemme, the Imperial Russian Consul in Bombay, has received two official cables from the Mukden capital of Manchuria despatched by M. Plancon, Chief Secretary to Admiral Alexeiff, Viceroy of the Far East. Messages were sent overland to Moscow and the following is a translation:

Mukdel (via Harbin), April 6.  
On arrival at Port Arthur the Lieutenant of the Emperor and Admiral Alexeiff inspected the battleships Tsarevitch and Retvisan, and also the cruiser Pallada. The repair of all vessels is proceeding satisfactorily. His Excellency also inspected the forts, workshops, and hospitals. He further visited the outer-roads where six large Japanese steamers are lying on the adjacent rocks, leaving the entrance to the Harbour absolutely free. The streets, shops and workshops of Port Arthur are full of life. New comers are shown as curiosity a few houses pierced by fragments of shells but no shells fell into any house. The life of Port Arthur proceeds as usual.

The centre in the Far East for manufacturing news unfavourable to Russia is Shanghai. English papers have been informed from there that the Japanese are advancing along the whole line, and have landed hundreds of thousands of troops in Korea. Also that in the battle on March 15th we lost 200 men etc. All this is absolutely false. On March 15th in the skirmish between a party of Russian scouts and the Japanese near Cheuchan the Japanese had considerable losses. We had only three officers and twelve soldiers wounded and three Cossacks killed. No other encounters on land have taken place. The Japanese seem to do their utmost to bottle our fleet at Port Arthur, but so far their attempts have been without result. Nine fire-ships are lying wrecked on the adjacent rocks, but the channel is absolutely free. I ascertained this myself three days ago when I was at Port Arthur with Admiral Alexeiff.

Mr. W. Ogden, Examiner of Railway Accounts, Bombay, is granted combined leave for six months. Mr. S. K. L. Yeats officiates for him.

We understand that Messrs. Bilderbeck and Bhandarkar have resigned their seats as Additional Members of the Supreme Legislative Council, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Cable, the representative of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the Supreme Council, has gone Home and will return in December next. This will not necessitate the resignation of his seat as an Additional Member of Council.

As all the work of the Supreme Legislative Council for the time being has been concluded there will probably be no sittings at Simla until the end of the season, when one or two minor matters may require consideration, among them being the passing of Stamp Bill and Stores Bill, the introduction of a Bill relating to Coinage in India, and a Game Preservation Bill. A draft Game Preservation Bill has been circulated among Local Governments for opinion.

The consignment of the rainbow trout ova, brought to Colombo by the "Prinz Heinrich" nearly a fortnight ago, promises to be about the most disappointing of the many shipments got out so far. The consignment was of the usual quantity, 20,000 ova and was procured at the Earl of Denbigh's hatcheries. Explicit instructions, based on past experience, were sent home, but unfortunately, not sufficiently taken notice of. Wire gauze trays on which the ova was asked to be kept were, for instance, replaced by boards with little holes at intervals. The results were disastrous. The ova at the holes proved good, but those a way from the holes were found dead from want of moisture. This consignment, too, had been longer in coming than it need have been the case. The German boats touch English ports, then go home and return to England again before setting out to the Far East. This adds nearly a week extra. The fry from the last shipment are very weakly, and require a lot of tending before they can be put into the streams.





CULTIVATION OF THE RUBBER TREE IN MEXICO.

Rubber cultivation in Mexico is the subject of a report to the Department of Commerce and Labor, by Mr. Canada, consul of the United States at Vera Cruz. He says that the cultivation of the rubber tree in Mexico, the hopes of ultimate success of the enterprise, and the alluring temptation to invest in an undertaking promising extraordinary returns for the money invested have induced many persons in the United States to address letters to him, and probably other consuls, seeking information on all possible matters connected with the venture. In answer to these inquiries, and with a view to placing before the general public trustworthy information relative to the cultivation of the plant, Mr. Canada gives many points of advantage to those interested in cultivation. His first suggestion is that those desiring to experiment should first find out the most favorable climate and soil to ensure the profitable development of the tree. He then gives a translation from the Spanish in regard to cultivation, taking up various points in order. When beginning a plantation the cheapest and most convenient method is to transplant the young trees from a nursery, an indispensable adjunct that should always be proportionate in size to that of the plantation about to be cleared for planting. The young trees should have a height of at least 31.6 inches before this can be done successfully. Planting the seed where the tree is expected to grow is not advisable on account of the greater labour in keeping the soil clear of other growths and consequent expenses incurred. Planting slips, or cuttings, from trees should never be attempted, as 90 per cent. of them will be lost.

The question as to whether sun or shade is best, and the distance trees should be set apart are in controversy, but the opinion of competent persons is that a tree, exposed to the rays of the sun develops quickly and produces a larger quantity of rubber, but will also rapidly deteriorate, and it is believed that within three or four years after the tree commences to produce the plantation will be exhausted. Those who maintain that shade is necessary to ensure best results claim that the plant will not cease to produce or exhaust itself in less time than from twenty to thirty years. Only practical experience will solve this question, and this has demonstrated the fact that the rays of the sun are necessary for the natural development of the tree, but trees that have already attained a good height give very little product when so exposed. They must have shade, and such as is given by large forest trees left at convenient distances from the rubber trees. Therefore, when clearing the land for a rubber plantation a sufficient number of trees of large growth should not be cut down, but should be left standing at regular distances to secure the necessary shade for the rubber trees. The proper distance apart is in dispute, but it appears to be conceded that less than twenty-five feet is likely to result in loss.

After the preliminary clearing of the land, and also after the young trees have been set out, great care must be exercised to keep the soil free from weeds and other plants. All these should be carefully removed and the ground raked over several times during the first year, and at least once a year afterwards. Some authorities advise cutting off the top of the tree when a height of 32 feet 8 inches has been reached. This is believed to cause the trunk of the tree to thicken, as well as the bark. Nature produces the milk in the bark, and in this the sought-for source of profit is found. The planter must apply all his intelligence and give all his attention to the plants until they are fully developed, and it should not be lost sight of that the cultivation of the rubber tree is something entirely new to the agriculturist. The time which must elapse before a rubber tree will begin to produce is much disputed. Some say twenty years, others fifteen years, and still others ten years, but the majority seem to agree that at the age of eight years the tree will be in a condition of development to permit of its being tapped for the first time, if the soil, the climate, and the growth of the tree have been good; but if either of these elements have been unfavorable the probability will be that a longer time must elapse before tapping can take place. And, again, practical persons have declared that under favorable conditions a tree may be fully developed at the age of six years. There is also a good deal of controversy over the annual production of a tree, and the best method for extracting the rubber without impoverishing the plant. Some experts claim that a tree may be tapped without injury every two months, and made to yield six pounds of rubber each time, or thirty-six pounds a year for each tree, while others declare that the tree should be tapped only once a year to produce six pounds. Mr. Canada concludes his report by giving information furnished him by Dr. W. S. Cockerell, who has been interested in agriculture in Mexico during the last twelve years, as follows:

"As a general rule, with a very few notable exceptions, rubber should be planted low an altitude of 1,000 feet above sea level, where the annual rainfall exceeds 100 inches, and where a large amount of humidity is present south of latitude 20 degrees north, and be irrigated as dew during the dry season. These exceptions are in protected valleys or locations within above-mentioned altitude at elevations of several thousand feet where the surrounding mountains ward off the cold winds and preserve equable climate. Such locations do exist, but are rare and limited in area. Soil is an all-important factor, and in a great measure controls results in direct ratio to its adaptability, fertility, and depth. Rubber will produce a luxuriant tree in almost any soil where the conditions of locality are favourable, but such a tree does not necessarily imply a profitable producer. By adaptability is meant a rich, alluvial, virgin soil, which is always of the requisite fertility. Its value as a rubber soil depends largely upon its depth or the subsoil, which factor gains its essentiality from the fact that the rubber tree is primarily a taproot feeder. The tap root is the perpendicular and principal root which penetrates the ground in relative proportion to the height of the tree. From the collateral, or superficial, roots sufficient strength may be drawn to maintain a luxuriant tree, but a well-nourished tap root is necessary to yield a bountiful supply of rubber milk, from which commercial rubber is extracted.

"Recently by good fortune, a landlaid was observed which demonstrated a rubber tree about seven inches in diameter three feet from the surface of the ground, with a tap root slightly more than one and one-half inches in diameter and eighteen feet below the surface. It would have been interesting to know how much deeper this root extended, but circumstances were such that it was not feasible to ascertain. This demonstration was only confirmatory of much previous investigation extending over a number of years, all proving beyond a doubt that it is the tap root that furnishes the excess supply of rubber which may be annually extracted without detriment to the tree. Many trees not producing a remunerative quantity have been found invariably to be without a tap root, and no tree with a normal tap root has been found that did not produce an abundant and profitable supply. To enumerate a great number of instances, amply conclusive, would occupy more space than allowable and only confirm above deductions.

"No less important than either of the foregoing factors is the method of planting. In order to secure a full complement of root supply, rubber seeds should be planted at proper distance in ground previously staked to indicate where the trees are to grow. From three to five seeds should be planted at each stake, so that if the rains wash any of the seeds out, or if at some stakes all fail to sprout, they may be easily and safely supplied from those where all, or the majority, have sprouted by removing, the small plants, two or three inches high, with proper implements, to supply the deficiencies. This may be done without jeopardy to the plants, and after all deficiencies have been supplied all but one plant should be removed from each place. In this way a very complete stand can nearly always be gotten the first year, and the deficiencies that may occur can be supplied by a repetition of seed-planting the second year or by transplanting very small plants with roots intact. Transplanting from nursery plants of such a size as would necessitate injury to the tap root is to be carefully avoided, likewise planting from slips, or cuttings, either of which may produce a thrifty-looking tree of small productive capacity. There is ample reason for limiting the distance of planting to a maximum of eight feet from tree to tree, and closer planting has been demonstrated to be successful. The object of close planting is to maintain continuous shade on the trunks of the trees, which is necessary to grow a soft bark, through which the milk will easily percolate, and this area will yield ample support to the tree in that the depth of the tap root is the real source of supply. A high state of cultivation, which in tropical countries implies keeping the ground absolutely clean and free from weeds and grass, is necessary, as there is no plant more sensitive or that more manifestly resents an intrusion than rubber."

PROMISE VS. PERFORMANCE.

A recent incident in the Panjab has given just cause of offence to what is termed vested interests in this country, though not of our countrymen. In the scheme for reorganising the Chiefs' Colleges the salary of the Principal of Aitchison College has been raised to Rs. 1,200 a month. A Principal of any college much more than that of a Chiefs' College is expected to bring with him a fund of practical knowledge of the history, needs and character of families that send their sons to such institutions. And who has been the fortunate recipient of the opportunity for the first refusal? None but a "junior master of Marlborough College," of no exceptional University attainments, and with only a few years' teaching experience. The same jobbery was performed in the appointment of the Director-General of Education. This certainly does not prove the anxiety expressed by the Government to give India the best teachers available for the hard cash paid for such work. And yet we read in the gigantic Resolution on Indian Educational Policy: "If the reforms now contemplated in the whole system of instruction are successfully carried out, it may be expected that the Educational Services will offer steadily increasing attractions to the best educational talent.....India is entitled to ask for the highest intellect and culture that either English or Indian seats of learning can furnish." Some distance must naturally exist between ideal and realisation but not necessarily between word and action.—"Advocate."

THE POWER OF THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

The Emperor of Japan, says a writer in the "World's Work," is believed by his people to be at least semi-divine, and is obeyed like a god—it must be remembered that when he passes from this world he becomes at once divine and is worshipped. He is head of the Army and Navy, makes war and peace, and is as supreme an autocrat as ever a constitutional country has seen. This may seem peculiar in the eyes of English people, but it is a fact, and the feelings of the Japanese people cannot be explained away. Not even the hardest of Japan fighters but will tremble when brought into the presence of the Emperor, and even veteran statesmen who have been in his confidence for years dare not lift their eyes to his face. It is not their fault, it is rather the fault of all those circumstances which have combined to make Japan great. Officials raised amid Western civilisation, educated along the highest lines, stand in awe of the written thanks of any member of the Imperial family, and look forward to the day when a bountiful providence may bestow such a wonderful honour upon themselves.

With all this power, the Emperor of Japan is an able man, and that despite the narrowing influences of his upbringing. He has always been able to find room in his active mind for progressive ideas, as well as for thoughts of his own magnificent position. The early steps of Japan towards the light of Western civilisation were helped to an extraordinary degree by the actions of the Emperor. When he understood the circumstances, he pronounced himself boldly; when he did not, he was ready to learn from those in whom he had confidence. He works far harder than any other monarch in Asia, and than many in Europe. Secluded in his palaces, he is spared the endless drain upon his time which European monarchs have to suffer—laying foundations, opening institutions, and so on. Personally, he is grave to severity in expression, and it is difficult to disconnect him from his high office. To the strangers presented to him he is courteous and full of

kindly interest, but they feel that he can never escape from the weight of his Imperial ancestors. Lately the Emperor has taken more personal interest in the details of the outer world; at the manoeuvres he has broken all rules of precedence by calling up privates who have distinguished themselves and complimenting them.

Given the circumstances among which the throne of Japan exists, it would not be remarkable if the Emperor was nothing but a self-satisfied despot, but the present ruler over Japan has risen superior to his advantages, and shown himself to be a great man.

MR. LALMOHAN GHOSE'S ADVENTURE AND SEQUEL.

Mr. Ganga Prosad Varma, the Editor of the "Advocate" of Lucknow, who travelled in the same train with Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose, gives the following account in his paper:—

Sometime ago Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose was the unwilling central figure of an unpleasant incident. We are able to give the sequel of that story in doing a shortly narrate he outlines of the whole matter. Mr. Lal Mohun was returning from Madras after presiding over the Congress. He had reserved for himself and his son-in-law, Dr. Sarat K. Mullick a whole first-class and in addition two first-class berths for his two daughters. These carriages on leaving Madras were marked by the Railway authorities "Reserved for Mr. L. Ghose" and "Reserved for Ladies" respectively. All went on well till the 134th mile was reached and there it was discovered that serious breach on the line had occurred. It was dusk, cold and raining. The passengers were put to considerable danger as they were trodden over the rushing torrents. Several accidents occurred, many slipped and damaged themselves and one passenger, we believe the Chairman of the Bezvada Municipality, was actually swept away and nothing heard of him till four days after his dead and mangled body was found with his neck twisted in the sand. On the first trolley to risk the danger were the Hon'ble Madam Mohun Malaviya, ourselves and Dr. Mullick. On reaching the other side we found the relief train awaiting us, Dr. Mullick finding that there was no lack of accommodation as the train was of the full complement of carriages promptly annexed as indicated. He was entitled to do so on behalf of his party a first-class saloon and two first-class berths. Dr. Mullick no doubt following in this instance the orthodox fashion of all experienced travellers who know that possession was nine-tenths of the law. He remained on till Mr. Ghose came up with his party. In the meantime a worthy European inflated with undue sense of his own importance and evidently connected with the Railway, came up and insisted on putting others in Mr. Ghose's reserved saloon. Mr. Ghose naturally objected. The European grew impatient and in the height of his unbounded self-esteem exclaimed "Do you know that I am an Englishman," no doubt thinking that even in the 20th century bluff of such a shallow nature was sufficient to pulverise mere "natives" out of their self-respect. Swiftly came the retort from a young friend of Mr. Ghose of sound proportions, "look here you—I have seen your betters in England. This is a reserved carriage and if you do not at once get out and cease your impertinence you will know the reason why." In this topsy-turvy world discretion is certainly the better part of valour, at all events, so thought this valiant knight of the Steel Lines, as he hastily made his exit. At the next station, Kaval, there was a great commotion. The "distinguished Englishman" widely walked up and down winking passengers and asking them, if they had quarrelled with a Railway official. On enquiry he said he had been insulted by the Congress President and that he was going to have his revenge. No doubt in his diseased imagination he considered that more "influential" a native the greater the insult. The Ramaswamy station-master was ordered to detach Mr. Ghose's carriage. Thereupon Dr. Mullick jumped out of the carriage and demanded an explanation. The station master was frightened out of his wits; and on finding himself between the devil and the deep sea panfully cried out he had no alternative but to obey the written order of his superior. Then ensued a heated controversy between the European official and Dr. Mullick which nearly reached the climax of physical arguments. Dr. Mullick insisted that the official had no authority to detach a passenger carriage. "I have been insulted" said the official. "Did Mr. Ghose insult you?" "No." "If you have been insulted" replied Dr. Mullick "you have your remedy and you can avail yourselves of it, but to detach one passenger reserved carriage and detain the mail you have no right." Dr. Mullick was advised by a European friend of the official concerned to get his party into a third-class compartment and travel as far as Bezvada which was a first-class station and that there he would get reserved accommodation. But this Dr. Mullick indignantly refused to do. "It is a matter of principle," exclaimed Dr. Mullick, "if you think you can play ducks and drakes with first-class passengers, what limit can there be to the indignities which you can daily inflict on the poor passengers?" It was time that your high handedness met with its fitting reward. Here I am and here I stay until the carriage is re-attached and the railway authorities will feel in due course the cost or the mad enterprise of their precious official." This hostile attitude had its effects. The authorities were thoroughly cowed down and they had to swallow a humble pie by being obliged to re-attach the carriage. Had more of our countrymen the pluck of Dr. Mullick there would be fewer collisions between Indians and Englishmen in future. In due course representations were made to the Railway authorities and as was to be expected a thorough investigation was made extending over several weeks. The Traffic Manager deserves the best thanks of the travelling public. The official concerned have all been properly dealt with and a letter from the Traffic Manager expresses "my extreme regret at the error of judgment in ordering your carriage to be detached, but Mr. (the name of the official) appears to have received very grave provocation inasmuch as I gather that he and his staff were accused of being drunk on entirely unfounded charges. He had no knowledge of the fact that you had paid for reserved accommodation." We may add that the true Englishman is the Traffic Manager, for he has at all events tried to show English justice. We regret however that he should have lost sight of the fact that Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose's carriage was detached for the supposed insult offered by another passenger.

By the way no one said that the official was drunk. Now that the matter has been departmentally dealt with, will the Madras Government see that the less fortunate travellers are spared such adventures by flood and field?

THE END OF "THE DAILY PAPER."

As in the December number of the "Review" I printed at length, for the information of my readers, my hopes as to the ideals that I thought might be realised in "The Daily Paper," it is due to them to state briefly how it has come to pass that the paper, after existing for a month, has ceased to appear. There is no necessity for any further explanation than that which was given in the "Address to my Readers," which appeared in the last number of that journal (Feb. 9).—

The whole scheme of this newspaper was so novel and so complex that it entailed far more than the ordinary amount of work in its production. For, as it was stated from the first, my aim was not merely to create a paper for the Home and all its inmates, but to build up, upon the circulation of that paper, an organisation which would in time be able to be useful to its subscribers as a means of mutual co-operation for all kinds of social service. The conception of "The Daily Paper" as a living link, binding all its readers into one great comradeship—with local depots as so many nerve-centres, and a messenger brigades as a daily renewed symbol of service—was sound in its essence; and some day will be carried out with far greater effect than I have ventured to dream of.

But the attempt to improvise everything all out of one's head, as the children say, is ever a perilous undertaking, and in this case it proved too much for the head. After seeing the second issue of "The Daily Paper" through the press I was prostrated for the first time in my life by a severe nervous collapse, which rendered it impossible for me to continue attendance at the office. My doctor looked grave, ordered me away instantly to the South of France, prescribed absolute cessation of all work, and predicted that if I did not obey his mandate I might wake up some morning and find my memory a total blank. I did not dare give up without a struggle. I continued to edit the paper after a fashion—at first from Wimbledon, and then, when the perpetual clang of the telephone drove me further afield, from my seaside cottage. The task of bringing out the paper from day to day was undertaken by my staff, to whose loyalty, zeal, and affection I cannot pay too high a tribute. My share in the work was, perforce, limited to writing the leader and some of the occasional notes, and compiling the daily "Matins." I hoped against hope that I should recover my health and nervous energy sufficiently to resume the place allotted to me in the production of the paper.

Alas! it was not to be. Despite the unwearied devotion of my wife and family, my health did not improve, and the prospect of being able to undertake the effective direction of the paper faded into the dim distance. A long sea voyage and complete abstention from journalistic work are prescribed as essential for my recovery. So I am off to South Africa on Thursday.

It is idle to pretend that this breakdown has not been a great disappointment. To have created a daily newspaper that would be all my own, in which I might hope to realise some at least of the ideals which have haunted my imagination from my youth up, has been the dream of my life. But I have lived long enough to know that the things which we most desire are often not the best things for us, and that often an iron veto imposed upon the execution of some dearly cherished project is an indispensable preliminary to its realisation on wider lines and in a nobler spirit. And as I have now been most decisively hindered from carrying out this particular scheme, I bow to the inevitable—not, I hope, with the sullen resignation of the fatalist, but with something of the joyous curiosity of a child who, being forbidden to follow the road that he had chosen, wonders what is the better and safer road along which he will be led to his destined goal. I do not even say that I have missed my road, or that I have been misled. Mayhap, and judging from past experience, nothing is more probable than that the work which is waiting for me could only have been discovered by following this road of strange turnings.

Hence to my readers I do not say "Farewell," but rather "Auf Wiedersehen"—"Till we meet again." I have no inner foreboding that my life-work is finished, or that there is no longer any corner in the vineyard in which I may be of some use to somebody, somehow and some-when. For the present I am content to wait. So far as journalism is concerned, and especially journalism for the Home, my faith in it is as high as ever; nor is it marred or blurred by my poor failure. "The Daily Paper" will appear no more, but the ideal which I have attempted to mould in clay may yet be carved in marble by more capable hands. For the moment I may seem to be wrecked in mid-career.

"Yet the high soul is left,  
"And Faith, which is but Hope grown wise,  
and Love,  
"And Patience, which at last shall overcome."

There is nothing to add to the above, excepting that I left England by the Shaw Saville steamer Athenic on February 14th, and expect to arrive in Cape Town early in March. My general health is not at all impaired. All that was the matter with me was nervous prostration, which fortunately neither impaired my working capacity nor my digestion. I am writing these lines just before embarking at Plymouth. The pain and disappointment of my breakdown have been immensely alleviated by the extraordinary outburst of kindly sympathy which I have met with from all quarters. My present intention is to spend a month in South Africa, and return to England, if possible, at the end of April.—"Review of Reviews."

The latest news from General Macdonald shows that Major Dunlop and the others who were wounded are doing well.

The Pegu-Moulmein Extension of the Burma Railway, the construction of which has been sanctioned by the agency of the Company at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,12,87,981, will probably not be without some effect ultimately on the sea-borne trade between Rangoon and Moulmein.

"HE REBUKED HER AND SHE ELOPED."

A Warrant Issued Against Her.

On Friday morning, before Mr. Donald Weston, I.C.S., Presidency Magistrate, Babu Jotindra Mohun Ghose appeared on behalf of a young man named Bhabataran Roy and made an application against his co-lodger named Hari Das Das, on a charge of having enticed away his young wife from his house in Parbutty Ghose's Lane, Jorasanko, under the following painful circumstances: Yesterday while the complainant was away from home, the defendant, who is his co-lodger, induced the wife of the former to accompany him to Soora to witness and enjoy "tamasha" to be held there in connection with the Rashi festival. As undue familiarity had existed between the parties, she readily agreed to the proposal and they both drove down to Soora. Her husband returned from work in the evening and not finding her indoors became very anxious and enquired of the neighbours what had become of her. None could give any satisfactory answer to the many enquiries he made. He had not, however, to wait long in suspense; for the couple came back soon. He took his wife severely to task and she of course put forward smooth excuses. But the husband was inexorable and no amount of explanation satisfied the man. He in a towering rage said that he would pack her off home the next morning.

The learned vakil also stated that he rebuked her and she eloped with the defendant the same night. The husband made every arrangement for her departure and put up the bags and baggage in order, all ready for despatch.

The poor husband, when he came to know of her elopement, searched every nook and corner but to no effect. No trace of the miscreants could anyhow be found out. The Court after hearing the facts, ordered the issue of a warrant against the wife for the production of her person in the Court at the first instance.

ANIMALS' JOKES.

In "La Revue" M. Henri Coupin discusses the facetious spirit in animals, the extent to which they play practical jokes, whether simply for amusement or, as much more often happens, to revenge themselves, or get something on which they have set their hearts.

As might be expected, monkeys are fond of playing practical jokes. Darwin long ago noticed in them an undoubted feeling for the comic though it must be admitted that in all jokes played by monkeys there seems more vengeance than any other sentiment. Dogs, however, often show a genuine sense of fun; but, what is much less generally known, so occasionally do bulls. Some years ago, relates a Frenchman resident in India, "I occupied a house surrounded by several acres of fine pastureland. The fine grass of this enclosure tempted much cattle from the village, and when the gates were open, they did not scruple to come in. My servants did their best to drive away the invaders, but one day they came to me, considerably perturbed, saying that a Brahmin bull which they had beaten had fallen down dead. (These are, of course, sacred and privileged animals, inviolable.) Learning that the marauder was dead, I went at once to see it; there its body lay, seemingly quite dead. A good deal annoyed by this circumstance, which might cause me trouble with the natives, I was not long in making a detailed examination, and I hastened to return to the house, meaning to go and inform the authorities at once of what had happened. I had been gone some time when a man arrived running delighted to tell me that the bull had got on to its feet and was quietly grazing. Suffice it to say that the animal had a habit of pretending to be dead thus rendering it impossible to turn him out, whenever he found himself in a place which pleased him and which he did not wish to leave. This ruse was repeated several times so as to enjoy my excellent turf."

Elephants can also play practical jokes, as also can certain birds, notably parrots. But most of the cases cited certainly show little trace of pure fun or humour and a great deal of malice or simple greediness.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Daily Express" states that Russia announces that General Makaroff has complete a system of submarine mines all round the Liaotung peninsula for a distance of three miles to seaward.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Standard" says that General Kuropatkin intends to make an immense move. He will proceed deliberately with an Army of 250,000 men to the Yalu river, while another 150,000 men will guard the railway. A concentration of the forces will take place at Antung.

The "Echo de Paris" is responsible for the statement that General Kuropatkin has declared that France, Germany and Austria are under an agreement with Russia to prevent Britain taking part in another Berlin Treaty and robbing Russia of the fruits of her coming victories.

It has just transpired that on the 24th of last month one of the rooms of the District Staff Office, Bangalore, was burglariously entered by some person or persons, at present unknown, who attempted to break open an iron cash safe sunk in the wall, and which at the time is said to have contained a fairly large sum of Government money. Fortunately for the military authorities, the safe proved burglar-resisting. The main guard is stationed here, but the sentries of the 64th Pioneers, who were on duty at that time, appear to have been in blissful ignorance of what was probably going on at the back of the building while they kept ward and watch at the front.

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## The English Press on the Tibet Mission.

THE "FREEMAN'S JOURNAL."

The debate in the House of Lords on Friday night on the question of Tibet was very illuminating, and, to some extent, amusing. Lord Reay, who knows more about India than most people, declared that there was absolutely no reason why a British "Mission" should have been sent into the Tibetan country. Lord Ripon, who was Viceroy of India, took the same view, and warned the Government against giving a handle to any foreign Power to say that Great Britain was interfering with the independence of any part of Chinese territory. For it must not be forgotten that Tibet is a vassal State of the Chinese Empire, and that her foreign policy has always been conducted via Peking. The anomaly of a British invasion of Tibet, at present becomes the more obvious when it is remembered that one of the possibilities of the present war between Russia and Japan is the emergence, as a great political question, of the integrity of the Chinese Empire. The invasion of Tibet is an invasion of the Chinese Empire, and if Russia needed a casus belli with England over the Chinese bone this would be quite sufficient. Characteristically, Lord Rosebery supported the raid on Tibet, although he referred to Lord Curzon as "an impetuous and imperious Viceroy."

## THE "NEW AGE"

Lord Reay reminded the House that the policy of a formed Viceroy was one of conciliation towards Tibet, and for himself declared that in his judgment nothing new had happened to justify the present advance into the heart of that country. Lord Rosebery took much the same view. Tibet, he said, was a large monastery inhabited by a nation of monks. There was little or no commerce to be got out of the country. The object of the Government seemed to be, indeed, nothing more than to make the people drink Indian tea when they wanted to drink Chinese. No doubt, his lordship added, other causes were alleged for this Mission, but they were not such as justified a great nation in embarking on an expedition such as the present without the greatest reasons of a kind which the papers did not disclose. And Lord Rosebery in this fashion poured ridicule upon the policy of the Government. There was not one serious reason for the Mission, and that was that the Tibetans had sent a Mission to Russia, but this did not appear to Lord Rosebery a very alarming affair. Yet his lordship concluded that, having gone so far, we could not turn back. In the name of common-sense, why? Some "substantial result" must be attained. Why and how? There is no commerce to be got out of the country. We are, we presume, to go on for the sake of prestige. But so we may be led into all sorts of wild enterprises, and indeed we are so led into such enterprises. A grievance is projected upon the popular imagination, and Missions follow—and promotion. Lord Lansdowne talks vaguely about Russia. He says Russian assurances are satisfactory, but the Mission must proceed. That is to say, the assurances of Russia are not satisfactory. When will the people of this country awake to the fact that they are being trifled with in the interests of a military caste?

## THE "DAILY NEWS."

Tibet, as everybody knows, is a vassal of the Chinese Emperor, and all her foreign relations are governed from Peking and directed by the Amban or Chinese representative at Lhasa. It is this fact that makes the armed expedition which is now invading Tibet an incident of the utmost possible gravity. The Mission ceased to be a political one when the frontiers of Tibet were crossed in defiance of the protests of the Chinese Government, and it is unworthy of Lord Lansdowne to pretend that the nagrant attack on Chinese suzerainty, which it involved, can be condoned by any opinions which the Chinese Minister may have been induced to utter since Prince Chung remonstrated against the passage of those frontiers last October. Lord Ripon put the matter in its true light when he warned the Government against giving a handle to any foreign Power to argue that we were interfering with the independence of any part of Chinese territory. In view of the situation in the Far East, the raid into Tibet presents itself in the light of a sheer piece of provocative and insensate Jingoism. At any moment we may be forced into war with Russia for the preservation of the integrity of China, and by way of preparation here we are in Tibet engaged in robbing China of one of her vassal States. We thank Lord Ripon for calling for the instant suspension of these proceedings, and we regret to see that Lord Rosebery thought it necessary to protest against this most wise advice. In the face of Lord Hardwicke's and Lord Lansdowne's statement that the real object of the Mission is to counteract an impression that Russia stands behind Tibet—a good way behind, we should think, in view of the almost impassable waste of mountains that separates her frontiers from China's vassal—and of the evident intention of permitting the expedition to proceed to Lhasa, there is not a moment to be lost in challenging the Government on this matter in the House of Commons. It would really seem as if there were firebrands in the Cabinet who are burning to find an occasion for plunging England into another war.

The Maharajah of Cooh Behar has sold his Kennedy Estate in Simla to the Government of India for Rs. 1,23,000. The property is to be utilised as a residence for a Member of Council.

In the Budget figures for 1904-05 a sum of fifteen lakhs is allotted for the new extensions on the Burma Railways that is, the Pegu-Moulmein and the Henzada-Kyangin lines. The next big works down for completion when funds allow are, first, the Pegu-Syriam line, 100 miles; to cost 64 lakhs, and the Bathe Sagging bridge, to cost 44 lakhs.

## HOW THE JAPANESE LEAVE THEIR ISLAND HOME.

GLIMPSES OF THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN.

Inland Sea, February 17th, 1904.—At the entrance to one of the loveliest fiords in Japan lies the Isle of Martyrs, called also Poppenburg, from whose precipitous heights were flung 300 years ago a host of native Christians in the persecution by Jeyasu the Regent. This Anti-Christian hostility culminated in the expulsion of all foreigners from Japan with the exception of the Dutch, who were allowed to settle on De shima, an island now forming part of Nagasaki, at the head of the same fiord.

During the last two years the frontage has been increased by a large piece of reclaimed land lying in front of Deshima, and it was on this that in one night a wadden town sprung up, presenting next morning to the astonished eyes of the Nagasaki people a picture that speaks well for the excellent management of affairs by the Imperial Government, for the place which yesterday had been a tract of waste land, was now peopled by an army. It was not only on the land that the hours of darkness had been made the most of, for in the harbour lay ships, each flying the transport flag, having amidships her number in Japanese characters and white paint.

We recognised ships that had been wont to run between Hong-Kong, Manila and Formosa, ships of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and other native firms, all requisitioned and put in readiness with the utmost despatch, boats plying to and fro loaded with soldiers.

## THE GREAT LITTLE JAP.

The lesson we took from nature, we might have expected our allies to take from us, and it was with no little surprise that we saw instead of Khaki clad men, soldiers in blue and red, wearing the usual peaked cap bound with bright yellow cloth, with, in several cases, the addition of a brown great coat, having a blue rolled hold-all over one shoulder, crossed with a red blanket hung over the other—a by no means miserable costume.

Dumpy, cheerful little men, too, most of them looked roaming about with a set grin on their broad countenances, quite ready for the admiration that was freely accorded them by the crowds of people Nagasaki had turned out to watch the embarkation. The same little soldiers are the men from the South, Satsuma men, the fiercest fighters in Japan, who in times of peace manufacture in their quiet glens where mountain streams work the quaint mills that grind the flint required to powder, the eggshell porcelain that we are so familiar with in the shape of dainty tea-cups.

## DEATH BEFORE DISGRACE.

Side by side with rifles, and wrapped carefully in cloth, they carry the swords of their ancestors, two handed razor edged blades, which had come down to them with that old dogma of the Samurai, that to die in the cause of honour is to live in immortal fame for ever.

There is in this a great resemblance between ourselves and our allies. They are soldiers to be feared, we have heard their war cry in China when the crest of the hill is reached and the enemy melt away before them flying before these men eager to die for Dai Nippon and honour and glory, and they make tea cups.

## WAR FEVER AT NAGASAKI.

Nagasaki had not before seen such a sight, so the roshore and roads commanding the harbour were alive with quiet courteous Japanese, watching the harbour with the greatest interest. The guardship painted in the grey of war, lay in the middle of the harbour, her Rising Sun flag showing brightly against the back ground of hills. By and by her rigging was manned with sailors and it was seen that the troops were under weigh. Then there arose cheer after cheer that was taken up by the people on shore, while the surrounding hills gave back the echo.

Down the harbour they went passing the gloomy deserted hull of the captured Russian mail boat Manchuria, the one silent object in all that enthusiastic place.

## 15,000 MEN FOR THE FRONT.

Rumour had it that 15,000 men had embarked. Whether that be true or not, five large troops left Nagasaki and more are leaving later on. The English mail passed them all bound North. Next morning, being just within the Island Sea, we passed two more, heading to join the others. They passed us in the early morning in the rosy light of that emblem of the Island Empire—the Rising Sun.—T. Cowen, in the "Pinnag Gazette."

## RUSSIA'S ACTIVITY.

Some days ago the "Daily Mail" announced that Russia was intending to mobilise two army corps in Turkestan.

Yesterday Reuters's Agency issued the following:—

St. Petersburg, Mar. 12.

It is freely stated in military circles here and also at Tiflis and Tashkent, that Lieutenant-General Ivanoff, the Governor-General of Turkestan, returned recently to Tashkent from the capital with formal orders to take the necessary steps to be able at once to mobilise, in case of need, two army corps in the Russian possessions in Central Asia.

Similar measures will also be taken in the Caucasus for the mobilisation of an army corps, which will it is stated, be sent to Turkestan, and will be replaced in the Caucasus by troops from the Volga and Tiflis districts.

These corps will, of course, be used with the object of making a military demonstration.

Sir James La Touche leaves Lucknow on the 14th April, and arrives in Naini Tal the following day.

A fire broke out at midnight on Wednesday last in a three-storied building, in Kasba Peith, Poona. The origin of the fire is not yet known. The manual fire engines and police were early on the spot, and helped by the neighbours, got the fire under control in a short time.

A contemporary's correspondent who lives in a remote Station had been attending evening service on a Sunday, when the worthy Missionary who occupied the pulpit dwelt feelingly on the subject of the "pneumatic plague." He had hardly started to ride back from church when his hind tyre burst with a loud report.

## BRITISH INDIANS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

THE GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS DILEMMA.

FROM A RAND CORRESPONDENT.

One of the alleged causes of the war was the desire of the Kruger Government to place all Asiatics into locations for trading and residence. Mr. Chamberlain protested in emphatic language that such action would be considered a breach of the Convention, and the Boers were therefore obliged to keep the law in abeyance.

Pretoria is faced to-day with a most enviable dilemma. At the close of the war British Indians flocked into the Transvaal; many of them were granted licenses, and others took up their residence in towns. Immediately on the return of the old population, British and Boer, an agitation was started to enforce the Kruger law.

The Government at first ignored all representations, but as the clamor increased agreed to keep out new Asiatic arrivals under the Peace Preservation Ordinance.

## STORMS OF PROTEST.

On the initiation of the Legislative Council, officialdom made a move towards redeeming the promises alleged by the Indians to have been made to them before the war. They provided in the Municipal Ordinance for Asiatic ratepayers to have a vote for town councils. On being put to the council every nominated member save one registered his voice against the proposal, which was withdrawn.

In December, the Colonial Secretary brought forward a motion in Council to give Asiatics at present trading in towns without licenses, who were in the Transvaal before the war, the right to remain there, and not be placed in bazzars under the terms of Government Notice, No. 356 of 1903.

Again a storm of protest was evoked, and the motion withdrawn. Sir George Farrar's amendment that a new Asiatic law be framed being carried instead.

## HOW WILL IT END?

What the outcome will be remains to be seen. Already the people of the Transvaal and preparing for the fray. On one side is ranged the Government, on the other a solid public opinion.

The introduction of Chinese mine labor has still further strengthened the case for the people, who seem determined that absolutely no Asiatic shall be left by which the Chinese can escape from their mines.

At Pretoria two months ago, the United Chambers of Commerce of the Transvaal unanimously opposed any relaxation of the stringent treatment of Asiatics, but an even more striking example of public opinion was seen at the conference of the Municipal Associations of the Transvaal, held in Johannesburg on 19 Feb. Two delegates were allowed from each town council, and one from each urban district board.

## REPRESENTATIVE OPINION.

The most important motion on the agenda paper was one from the Boksburg Town Council, as follows:—

That in view of the fact that a new Asiatic law is to be brought before the Legislative Council for its consideration, and that the question is of such vital importance to local governing bodies, this conference of Transvaal municipalities place on record its opinion that the most satisfactory policy to the inhabitants will be to place all Asiatics in bazzars; fair compensation to be paid to any who may be trading outside under licenses first granted by this late Government. Further, that all local authorities be permitted to make what by-laws may be necessary to regulate matters concerning colored people and in regard to the fixing of sites for bazzars, places of residence, etc.

The delegates present were thoroughly representative of the country, including British and Boers.

Moreover, they were all the chosen representatives of the citizens after hotly-contested municipal elections and therefore in the absence of Parliamentary Government may be taken as accurately representing the feeling of the people.

The towns represented included, amongst others, Johannesburg, Germiston, Pietersburg, Vereeniging, Pretoria, Boksburg, Klerksdorp, and Springs (British), Middelburg, Standerton, Carolina, Wakkerstroom, and Belfast (Boer).

## OUT-KRUGERING KRUGER.

The motion, although couched in diplomatic language, was a frank request for a law for exceeding the Boer law in severity, and it was carried with only one dissentient (Mr. Goch, Johannesburg Town Council, and Chamber of Mines).

It will thus be seen that the Government must either throw overboard the British Indians or pass a law in the teeth of public opinion with probable results of the most serious character. If it does the latter an agitation for responsible government will be immediately commenced.

The first general election afterwards would result in an overwhelming majority pledged to place all free Asiatics in bazzars, if not to expel them entirely from the country. Transvaalers have the example of Natal before them, and appear to be determined that if Asiatics are allowed in the country at all, they must come here under indenture to engage in unskilled work.

Those already here must be treated as natives and kept in locations.—"M. L."

In the Madras High Court yesterday Mr. T. Rungachariar, Vakil, made an application for the revision of the judgment of the Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam by which he had given a decree to the Maharajah of Jeypore (Vizagapatam District) ousting the Mahunt of Gurupur from his office and giving possession of all the properties of the "mutt" to the Maharajah, the latter claiming the right of removing the Mahunt and appointing his successor. Mr. Rungachariar, on behalf of the Mahunt, denied the right claimed by the Maharajah. Their Lordships, Mr. Justice Davis and Mr. Justice Benson, directed notice to issue to the Maharajah of Jeypore to show cause why the judgment should not be reversed.

## INDIAN NOTES.

KEDDAH OPERATIONS IN TRICHUR.

A correspondent writes in the "Malabar Mail":—I am glad to report that the Keddah operation near Idookampary was successfully carried out on last Saturday the 19th ult. when His Highness the Rajah together with a Royal Prince, the Acting Conservator, Assistant Conservator, and rangers etc. were present, and the wild tusked beautiful young one was carefully taken out of the pit with the assistance of two tame elephants and led at once to Pothiarum. After this His Highness and staff returned to Kanjirapally and thence to Ernakulam. The Coochin Siroor makes a good profit every year by the sale of new elephants from this keddah operation. The elephants of the Coochin forest are considered to be far superior in every respect to the elephants from the forests of other parts.

## BOMBAY MOHURRUM DISTURBANCE.

At the invitation of Mr. G. Gell, Commissioner of Police, Bombay, about two hundred leading gentlemen, representing the different sections of the Mussalman community of Bombay, attended at the Central Police Office on Friday afternoon to consider what steps should be adopted to bring about peace and harmony between the Sunis and Borahs. Mr. Gell addressing the meeting, said: "I have called you here this evening with a view to some arrangement being arrived at between you Borahs whereby the deplorable state of affairs has existed for some four or five days past may be put an end to. I am obliged to you for responding to my invitation, and it shows that you, too, must have some idea of some kind in your mind. I do not wish you to discuss the rights and wrongs of the case, and I do not wish to enquire from you who began the quarrel. I do not wish to know from you who has suffered most or who has suffered least, but I merely want that you should come to an understanding and put the past behind you, and look only to the future. This will best serve your interests and those of your mohallas. Remove all bitterness from your mind and do your utmost to live together in peace. Bombay is large enough to hold you both. This is all I have to say, and I hope that if you agree with me you Sunis and Borahs will shake hands and make peace for ever." The members of the different communities then shook hands with apparent cordiality.

## APPEAL AGAINST ACQUITTAL.

The Punjab Chief Court has recently given an important decision on the law relating to appeals by a Local Government from an order of acquittal passed by a lower Court. In connection with an appeal of this kind (King Emperor versus Chatter Singh and Others)—a case of murder—the Legal Remembrancer requested that the question as to the principles which should govern appeals from an acquittal as distinguished from appeals from conviction should be referred to a Full Bench, there being a conflict of opinion thereupon among the various High Courts. The conflicting rulings of the High Courts were set out in full—Allahabad High Court having distinguished itself by sanctioning on several occasions the view that in case of appeals from an acquittal there must be evidence of such unreasonable or distorted conclusions, owing to the incompetence, stupidity, or perversity of the lower tribunal, as to produce a positive miscarriage of justice; and, at a later date, that "it is not easy to see any distinction in the Criminal Procedure Code between the right of appeal against an acquittal and a right of appeal against a conviction." The Punjab Chief Court has also given diversified judgments on the point, the earliest decision being against a necessity to show "obstinate blundering" and mischievous results, while the later ones follow the lines of the first-quoted Allahabad ruling. In the present case, after a full discussion of the issues, Mr. Justice Chatterji held, and the Chief Judge concurred with him, that under the Criminal Procedure Code both classes of appeals are on an equal footing; that in order to justify interference with a judgment of acquittal on a question of fact it is sufficient if the finding is clearly wrong on the evidence, and unreasonable in the opinion of the Appellate Court; but that upon sound principles of criminal jurisprudence the indications of error in a judgment of acquittal ought to be clearer and more palpable, and the evidence more cogent and convincing, in order to justify its being set aside, than would be necessary in the case of a judgment of conviction. In other words, the Judges upheld the two fundamental principles of English criminal jurisprudence, that an accused person should be held innocent until proved guilty, and that if there is a doubt the prisoner is entitled to the benefit of it. This being the case it was decided that there was no need to refer the legal question to a Full Bench of the Court—a decision which seems unfortunate as a Full Bench ruling might have put a stop to further inconsistent decisions.—"Pioneer."

The other day, before the Senior Presidency Magistrate, Black Town, the police prosecuted, at the instance of the Paper Currency Office authorities Venkatachellum Naidu and Radhakrishna Ram, for alleged fraudulent delivery of counterfeit coins. The evidence showed that on the 10th instant the first accused, who is employed under the second, presented a sum of Rs. 340 at the Paper Currency Office, and wanted to convert them into notes. The countess, however, whose duty it is to test the genuineness of the rupees presented, found on examination that about 23 of them were spurious ones, and hence the charge. Mr. Branson, of Messrs. Branson and Branson, who defended the accused, submitted that there was no evidence of the accused having had any guilty knowledge that the coins were bad. In the course of his business false coins had been palmed off on the 2nd accused, and he in his turn, without knowing them as such, asked his servant, the first accused, to exchange them for notes. His Worship discharged the accused, and in doing so remarked that the conduct of the accused perfectly justified the assumption that he had no guilty knowledge of the coins being bad.

## ZEBRA IN HARNESS.

London, March 16.

A novel exhibition took place at the Zoo yesterday, when Captain Hayes gave a demonstration of the art of breaking zebras to harness and saddle.

This was the first of a series of experiments by which the Zoological Society hope to prove that their zebras are capable of earning their keep by harness work.

They have up to the present time been living in luxurious idleness. But it is quite possible that this summer they may be seen trotting in harness round the gardens.

The Society owns a stud of eight beautiful zebras—four Greys's zebras from Abyssinia, two of which belong to the King, three Bur-chells, and the hybrid which was presented to the King by Lord Kitchener. The most docile of these, a daintily striped lady named Jessie, was trotted out from her snug stall yesterday to become the first martyr.

Before the end of the day she had learned to follow her trainer with perfect docility when he wished to lead her, to answer more or less quietly to the reins when driven, and even to submit to saddle work.

Dr. Mitchell, the society's secretary, informed an Express representative that if the zebras showed the slightest ill results from the breaking-in experiments the scheme would be abandoned.

"The trials are under the supervision," he remarked, "of Dr. Cossar Ewart, who has recently been engaged in crossing zebras with horses for the Foreign Office, with the idea of producing a hybrid for South Africa that will not be affected by the deadly tsetse fly. Dr. Ewart's head man, who is accustomed to handling zebras, is giving Captain Hayes every assistance."

Jessie certainly suffered no roughness at Captain Hayes' practised hands yesterday. Once or twice—"just to take the nonsense out of her"—she was gently thrown by a skilfully manipulated rope, but she was never in the least frightened.

"Zebras are much more intelligent than horses," remarked Captain Hayes in the course of a lecture given during the breaking-in process. "A horse will plunge and fight with all his force when he first feels the breaking tackle on him but a zebra prefers to retain its strength, and to keep all its wits about it."

Here the lecture was cut short by a sudden attempt on Jessie's part to seize the opportunity to jump the palings and fly.

On the Original Side of the Bombay High Court, the Hon. Mr. Justice B. Tyebji disposed of a suit in which Messrs. E. D. Sasson and Co. claimed from Kanayalal Kishanchand Rs. 93,470, being an advance made to the defendant on a parcel of 268 pearls. In November, 1902, the parcel was consigned, through the plaintiffs' Bombay firm, for sale in London, and the defendant obtained an advance of £6,000 on the parcel, which was hypothecated to the plaintiffs as security. It was agreed, in the event of the parcel being returned to Bombay, that the defendant should accept delivery, and pay up at once the amount of the advance. As it was impossible to realise a satisfactory price, about £9,000, the parcel was returned to Bombay unsold, and the plaintiffs' London firm drew a demand draft for the Rs. 93,470 on the defendant, which, however, was not paid. A decree was passed in favour of the plaintiffs with interest and costs, and they were authorised to sell the pearls by auction or otherwise in satisfaction of their claim.

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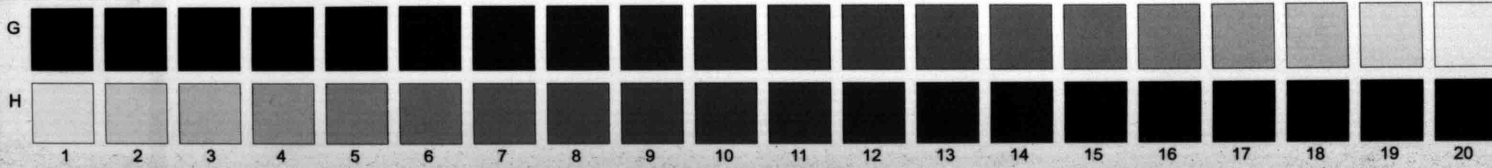
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any doubt depend. (15th December, 1902, No. 24 Page 862).

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3. DR. K. P. GUPTA, Col., I. M. S., M. A., M. D., F. R. C. S. (Edin.) D. Sc. (Cambridge),  
F. H. D. (Cantab.), late Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, etc., says:—"Healing Balm is almost  
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4. DR. B. K. BOSE, Surgeon-Major, M. D., I. M. S., etc., say:—"I have tried Healing Balm in  
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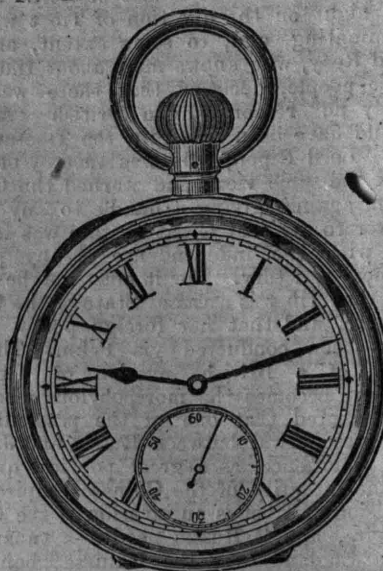
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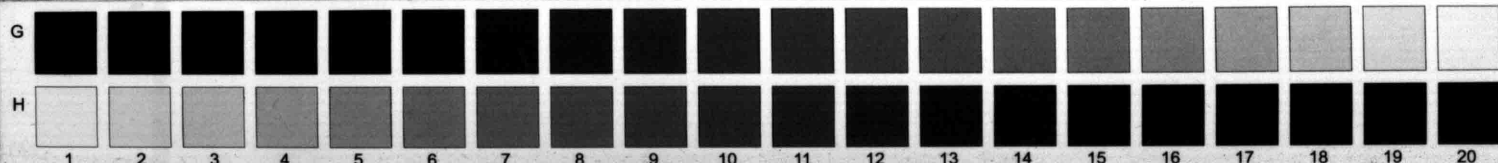
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## THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

## JAPAN'S HUGE WAR BILL.

Since the commencement of the war up to the present Japan has spent about £5,000,000 on the war, and it is estimated that by the end of this month the disbursements will have reached £15,600,000. The expenditure on the war from April to December next is estimated at £38,000,000, and it is proposed to meet this by the issue of Exchange bonds, the extension of the tobacco monopoly, and the creation of a salt monopoly.

## RUSSIAN HEROISM.

Tales of heroism on the part of Russians at Port Arthur are numerous. It is reported that a torpedo boat destroyer was saved by the reckless daring of a young midshipman named Palovitsky, who at the risk of his life sprang from his post to the steering wheel at which the steersman had been shot and skillfully piloted the vessel away from four Japanese destroyers towards which it was rapidly drifting. The electric steering gear had been disabled. Bullets whistled past the daring youth, but he escaped scot free. Many of the crew had been killed, and but for the prompt action of the midshipman the destroyer would inevitably have shared the fate of the Stereguschchni.

## RUSSIA TO INVADE JAPAN AND ANNEX KOREA.

The "Echo de Paris" has received the following from its St. Petersburg correspondent:—"In an interview with General Kuropatkin's Aide-de-camp, he said no correspondents, Russian or foreign, would be permitted with the army, for the present the desire being to keep the movements secret. General Kuropatkin expects that he will have beaten the Japanese by the end of July. The first order will be the recall of the Russian columns operating in Korea; then the army will be massed, and a general advance made through Korea, crushing the enemy. Afterwards there will be a military demonstration in Manchuria, and then an invasion of Japan. The treaty of peace will be signed at Tokio. General Kuropatkin is said to be absolutely confident of the result. The impression is general here that Japan has found herself in a bad situation, and will now seek terms of peace. A high official informs me that the sole reply will be that Korea must become a Russian suzerainty. It is now stated that had Japan not declared war Russia would have given away regarding Korea, in return for advantages elsewhere."

## KUROPATKIN'S DEPARTURE FROM ST. PETERSBURG.

Mr. Albert Kinross writes from St. Petersburg to the "Daily Mail," under date March 12th:—

I have just been down to the station to see General Kuropatkin leave for Manchuria; and, at the same time, I have had my first taste of a Russian crowd.

About five o'clock we hailed an Isovskich, and went skimming down the Nevski Prospekt, over the newly-fallen snow. At first our sledge was only one of the invariable procession of troikas and wheeled carriages that throng the Nevski at all hours of the day and night. The pavement was, as usual, full of pedestrians, treading silently in india-rubber shoes.

Almost every sledge that passed us held one or two grey-coated Russian officers; carriage after carriage went by, full of important personages, coronets and armorial bearings on the panels, the servants in Imperial liveries; or else driven by a species of Father Christmas, long-haired and prodigal of beard, wearing the padded caftan and bright velvet head-dress that is the national and distinctive uniform of the Russian coachman. Now the pavements were crowded, and it seemed that there were almost as many policemen as sightseers.

The people stood several rows deep, and overflowed into the roadway. They were just like a London crowd awaiting a royal procession.

In the station-yard they were assembled in their thousands, and to each dozen there was a policeman. I have never seen so many police as were on duty in St. Petersburg between five and six o'clock this afternoon. The ordinary constable is dressed in black, the superior in grey; and there is another kind that wears a brown frieze cloak and bushy decorated with a shaving brush ornament. All carry swords and revolvers.

## "THE GENERAL."

General Kuropatkin drove up five minutes before the train started. Like our own "Bobs," he is a little man, had as nails, with a face tanned and ruddy from constant exposure to wind and weather. Square-shouldered and alert, he shook hands with the Grand Dukes, Generals, Ministers, and personal friends who had assembled to see him off. Two holy pictures and a sword of honour were presented to him, and the French colony in St. Petersburg gave him a magnificent bouquet. One or two very intimate friends kissed him. Then, accompanied by the members of his staff, he stepped into the special train, with kitchen dining-room, bed-room, etc., that is to be his headquarters for the next three weeks. The engine belled in the melancholy way that Russian engines have; a lady fainting—she is the wife of one of Kuropatkin's officers—and as the train drew out of the station, the whole brilliant gathering broke out into a regular British cheer.

"Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!" they cried. The little General waved to them, and then all was over. Kuropatkin was on the road to the Far East to grapple with a problem that must either make him or break him. Valiant, battle-scarred, a born soldier, dry hearted, yet never so cool as in the hour of danger, Kuropatkin, whatever his destiny will go down to history as a soldier of faultless courage and resolution.

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## THE RUSSIAN CROWD.

The Russian crowd is a silent one. No mighty roar had swept over its ranks as the hero of the hour drove by on his way to lead the armies of his Emperor. Only a deep and melancholy booming of church bells announced that some great national event was in progress.

The crowd, hundreds deep, and controlled by an abundance of mounted and unmounted police, had looked on as though assisting at some theatrical or athletic display. Rich, poor, and very poor, they elbowed and jostled one another, and when I joined them, they were keenly intent on the princes, generals, and other high personages who were driving away from the stations.

Every uniform in a terribly-uniformed Empire passed me. Cossack generals with white astrachan caps; other generals with black astrachan caps; Bokhara magnates with long knives dangling in front of them; students in uniform; Ministers in uniform, in sledges, in carriages, and on foot; they formed an amazing, semi-European, semi-Oriental procession as they streamed out of the station. The foreign military attaches were there as well, French, German, Austrian, and Swedish; and the crowd looked on, good-humoured and talkative.

The police were seemingly doing their best to scatter it. The crowd had been allowed that purpose was accomplished it must disperse. To me it seemed that the Russian police discourage crowds. All their efforts now seemed directed towards breaking up the vast mass of people who had assembled in the station-yard and in the adjoining streets. "Gentlemen, I beg you," is the polite formula in use; and we obeyed.

## THE LULL.

News is withheld here, not so much, I believe, from any desire to keep the public in suspense, but rather because the officials that deal with news do so in their own time, and are the most leisurely creatures imaginable. The Russians do not hurry, and the "lull" is a biped unknown to the Muscovite zoologist. An hour or even a day more or less is of no great consequence.

People do not mind waiting and pleasure and comfort seem to come before business all the time. The public, too, does not seem to be in any great hurry for war news, and at present particularly we are in the midst of a lull similar to that which followed the departure of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener for South Africa. No one expects anything to happen in the Far East for the next five or six weeks. And then the Russian, in common with most other Europeans, expects that the armies of the Tsar will overpower the Japanese by sheer force of numbers, and drive "the yellow man" back to his own islands, there to sue ignominiously for peace.

Such is the common Russian view of the situation, and in France, Germany, Austria, and half-a-dozen European countries, the same belief is held. There are doubters, there are even pro-Japanese in this country; but among the great bulk of the Russian population Japan is regarded as an impudent and dwarfish enemy who will disappear at the onrush of the Tsar's Cossacks.

## THE TRIALS OF RUSSIA.

## MORE VIEWS ON ENGLAND'S ATTITUDE.

Mr. Arnold White writes in the "Daily Chronicle":—

Who is there over eight years of age who does not remember the Black Week of December 1899? The picked generals of Britain were defeated by a mounted peasantry whose chief could barely write his own name, and whose ablest commander was a potato dealer. The flower of the British Army was thrice cut up and defeated in a single week. The Russian people to-day are undergoing the trials and the sufferings we had to bear four years ago. Had Ladysmith fallen Sir George White and his army been captured, and Sir Redvers Buller driven into the sea, would any Englishman worthy of the name, whatever his politics or his creed, have tamely given in? No, none. But a great portion of the English Press are treating Russia as a squeezed orange are dividing bearskin before Bruin is dead, and otherwise exhibiting indifference to the wider issues involved in the victory of Japan and in the defeat of Russia. Many of the chief journals in England, for example, are continually engaged in predicting division and revolution among the Russian people as the necessary consequence of defeat in the field.

## RUSSIA'S RESERVE POWER.

All the information that I receive from Russia is to the contrary effect. Let it be granted that Russia loses her navy, Port Arthur, 180,000 men, and the whole of the stores, ammunition, treasure and weapons accumulated in the Liaotung Peninsula. What then? The answer is that Russia will not budge an inch; her spirit will rise as the spirit of Englishmen rose at Lucknow in 1857, and on board the "Revenge" in 1891 at Flores, in the Azores, when facing fifty-seven great Spanish ships. The Russians then will be more formidable to the British Empire than they are now, and it lies with the English Press to make regenerated Russia our enemy or our friend.

The effect of foreign disaster on a brave people is to unite, not to divide them. In addition to the suffering inflicted by the Japanese the pride of Russians is wounded in its tenderest point. A month ago the Japanese were "yellow dwarfs" to the rulers of Russia. Defeat at the hands of a great white Power would be terrible, but chastisement from Asia is as intolerable to the Russians as to the English. A friend who occupies a high position among the rulers of Russia writes to me. He is speaking of the patriotic feeling which for the time being pervades all Russia:—

"We ourselves—the men at the rudder of the State—are speechless from astonishment, seeing how greatly is justified our hope and our belief in the Russian people. It is a real 'offenbarung' as say the Germans! That is only at the beginning of our soufflé with Japan. What will it be if our success were uncertain? We see with bewilderment how we have grown."

## AN OFFICIAL VIEW.

He sends me, moreover, a memorandum in which is described the character of the patriotism which has been evoked since the outbreak of war. The students of Kieff and Odessa, turbulent and liberal in politics, have rallied to the Government. The students of Odessa bore the Emperor's portrait in procession. At Rostoff on the Don and at Warsaw students demonstrated in the streets accompanied by an immense crowd. At Wilna and Nicolaieff the loyalty and patriotism of the peasants and industrial classes have been strikingly illustrated. One per cent of the earnings of these employed at the Alapayefsk works are voluntarily given to those reservists called to the colours, non-workers paying 3 roubles each. The Novgorod peasants, bidding farewell to a detachment of infantry, took off their warm felt boots and threw them into the railway carriages. The great towns of Petersburg, Moscow, Kieff, and Natchich-van have voted large sums. The Jewish community at Vitebsk organised a subscription for the Red Cross Society, and although poor men lodged 2,000 roubles in the hands of the Governor as a first offering. The Finns are no less backward than the Russians. The Governor-General is receiving numerous applications from volunteers. Helsingfors alone has given 120 volunteers, Mechanics in local shipyards have applied to be sent to the dock at Port Arthur. A student now in confinement for circulating seditious literature petitioned the Tsar to forgive him that he might serve in the ranks of the army. His petition was granted. The medical men of Russia propose to give 3 roubles per head per month cash for medical comforts.

I publish these statements without any means of verifying their accuracy, but I have no hesitation in saying that I believe them because the character of the gentleman who sends them to me is a sufficient guarantee for their truth, and because they are in accordance with the character of the Russian people.

## LEGITIMATE AMBITIONS OF RUSSIA.

The point established by these facts is that so far from the Russian people collapsing into a disorganised and revolutionary crowd the process of regeneration and reform has already begun, and that those statesmen and publicists who are reckoning upon the obliteration of Russian influence from world politics are making a mistake of a ghastly and irrevocable kind. The Japanese love the English neither more nor less than they love the Russians. East is East and West is West, even when the banner blazoned with the sixteen petals of the royal chrysanthemum flies over the ruins of Port Arthur. Victorious Japan, having tasted blood, is no more likely to be content with victories over the Chinese and the Russians than the Germans were content with defeating the Danes and the Austrians.

Surely the part of English statesmanship is to recognise the claims which Russia has established for herself by the stupendous work of constructing the Siberian Railway and by her civilising influence from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific. Englishmen whose knowledge of Russia is confined to antipathy may smile when Russia is spoken of as a civilising influence. Barbarians do not build railways of 6,000 miles in length. The British race, with all its mechanical ability, has never done anything of the kind.

## BIRDS OF MALABAR.

A correspondent writes to a southern contemporary:—

The estuaries of three rivers falling into the sea within a mile and a half of Tellicherry form the finest fishing grounds in all North Malabar. We went a-fishing there the other day, but a more successful fisher was already on the scene. A large mullet or Barin, in the exuberance of his joy at finding fat prawn on all sides or rather to stake down into porous digestive shape the quantity of the crustaceans he had swallowed, began to indulge in a series of leaps, but alas! in the twinkling of an eye, he was in the grasp of a Fish-eagle who was spying his gamours from high up and came down like a stone caught him in his talons, and bore him away to a high tree to be devoured at leisure.

This eagle is known in the Malayam North Malabar as "maganian," evidently derived from the sanscrit word "magna," diving, for, it is a well-known fact that the bird sometimes plunges from a great height into the water and actually dives down and seizes its fishy prey. It is white in color or rather greyish white and I am in doubt whether it is the osprey (Pandion haliaetus) or the grey-backed sea-eagle ("Haliaeetus leucogaster"). We were not able to shoot this riparian robber for better identification or for determining the question whether "maganian" is a more appropriate term for osprey or the other eagle mentioned.

Another bird which I was recently more successful in identifying is the "yama-pakshie" which is said to utter his call at stated periods, viz., in every "yaman" or the eighth part of a day, a watch of three hours. It is no other than the "jungle owl" (athene radiata). I once heard a devout Moplah say that the bird is a messenger of God to his earthly worshippers to say their prayers. I rather like this owl's protracted call which is a familiar note both day and night in woody localities in Malabar, but it is regularly indulged in only when the bird is in its amorous mood or its breeding season, viz., April-May. Nature, as it were, makes use of this musical bird in lulling the tossing insomnia one in this hot season into soothing sleep. To those curious on the subject I append Dr. Jerdon's technical description of the bird:—

"Above, brown uniformly barred with close rays of rufescent whitish and dusky; wings more rufous, especially the primaries, and barred with dusky brown: some of the greater coverts and scapulars with white spots; beneath, throat white, the rest of the body barred transversely with dusky and whitish; under tail-coverts white; bill greenish horny; irides golden yellow; feet 8 to 8½ inches extent 19; wings, five; tail nearly 3; tarsus not quite 1; hind toe and claw 1½."

The most remarkable characteristic of this bird is that unlike other owls, it is both as well as a night one. It is rather shy flying readily in the daytime when disturbed. It feeds chiefly on beetles, and also on lizards, centipedes, etc. It breeds in hollow trees and lays two or three white eggs.

## THE BRAHMIN AND THE GOAT.

Dr. Bhandarkar is reported to have said in his speech on the Universities Bill that his position reminded him of that of the Brahmin in an old Sanskrit story, who was persuaded to drop a sacrificial goat which he was carrying on his shoulders, because three robbers, separately meeting him by a preconcerted arrangement at different parts of the road, had taunted him with carrying on his shoulders a dog, which is to Brahmins an unclean animal. When the Brahmin found that three men had at different times charged him with carrying a dog, he thought in his dilemma that the animal must be a dog, and he dropped the animal hastily and penitently on the ground to serve as a welcome repast for the triumvirate of robbers who had so successfully fooled him.

Dr. Bhandarkar was, of course, careful to assure his hearers that he was not simpaten enough, like the Brahmin of his story to let go his pure sacrificial goat—the Universities Bill—because Messrs. Gokhale and others wished him to believe that it was an unclean animal unfit to be touched by a sacred Brahmin.

Will you permit me to remind the learned Doctor that there is another version of the story, which, I am afraid, people whose views coincide with those of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale and his supporters will consider to be more applicable to Dr. Bhandarkar's unfortunate position on the Universities Bill than the one he has quoted. It is given in Macaulay's essay on Mr. Robert Montgomery's poems and runs as follows:—

"A pious Brahmin, it is written, made a vow that on a certain day he would sacrifice a sheep, and on the appointed morning he went forth to buy one. There lived in his neighbourhood three rogues who knew of his vow, and laid a scheme for profiting by it. The first met him and said, 'Oh Brahmin, wilt thou buy a sheep? I have one fit for sacrifice.' 'It is for that very purpose,' said the holy man, 'that I came forth this day.' Then the impostor opened a bag, and brought out of it an unclean beast, an ugly dog, lame and blind. Thereon the Brahmin cried out, 'Wretch, who touchest things impure, and utterest things untrue, callest thou that cur a sheep?' 'Truly,' answered the other, 'it is a sheep of the finest fleece, and of the sweetest flesh. Oh Brahmin it will be an offering most acceptable to the gods.' 'Friend,' said the Brahmin, 'either thou or I must be blind.'"

Just then one of the accomplices came up. 'Praised be the gods,' said this second rogue, 'that I have been saved the trouble of going to the market for a sheep! This is such a sheep as I want. For how much wilt thou sell it?' When the Brahmin heard this, his mind wavered to and fro, like one swinging in the air at a holy festival. 'Sir,' said he to the new comer, 'take heed what thou dost; this is no sheep, but an unclean cur.' 'Oh Brahmin,' said the new comer, 'thou art drunk or mad!'

At this time the third confederate drew near. 'Let us ask this man,' said the Brahmin, 'what the creature is, and I will stand by what he shall say.' To this the others agreed; and the Brahmin called out, 'Oh stranger, what dost thou call this beast?' 'Surely, Oh Brahmin,' said the knave, 'it is a fine sheep.' Then the Brahmin said, 'Surely the gods have taken away my senses; and he asked pardon of him who carried the dog, and bought it for a measure of rice and a pot of ghee, and offered it up to the gods, who, being wrath at this unclean sacrifice, smote him with a sore disease in all his joints.'

I do think that if Dr. Bhandarkar gives a little careful thought to the matter he will not have much difficulty in identifying himself with Lord Macaulay's Brahmin. Let me add the hope that the god of public opinion may not visit him with so severe a penalty as was inflicted on his prototype, —M. N. W. in the "Advocate of India."

## THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS.

## DENSE SWARMS IN POONA.

## A STRANGE SPECTACLE.

After the experience we had of locusts a month ago, residents must have been more or less prepared for further visits from these pests. The most vivid ideas of locust swarms, however, can hardly have imagined anything equal in magnitude to the flights that passed over Poona on Saturday and Sunday. The first indication that something unusual was stirring was received about 3-30 p.m. on Saturday when the sounds of distant shouting were borne in from the direction of the city. In a little while the advance-guards of the great locust army came in sight flying about in all directions; but momentarily the swarms increased in numbers until they were presently passing overhead as thick as bees. At the lowest computation the swarm must have been at least half a mile wide, while so thick were they in parts that they rose in clouds overhead. It would be utterly impossible to attempt to convey any idea, however remote, of the numbers of insects there were. The air was full of them for miles round, and for miles round, too, the trees were thick with the insects, whose presence was easily discernible from the heavy reddish brown hue they imparted to those trees they settled on. And while this was going on, and the locusts were swarming over gardens and road side trees, the main body was seemingly unaffected. It was only the stragglers that settled on babul, peepal, and mango: the others, the strong of flight continued on, driven before a steady wind, until the air seemed alive with them. On and on they went, in a continuous, never ceasing stream, and still as they went others came up, and others again. They seemed no end to the great clouds of insects. Like the sands of the seashore would have been an

THE SCRATCH OF A PIN may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by

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apt simile to describe their numbers. For three hours and more the sky was full of them, and when at last the sun went down there was a cessation. The insect swarms settled down for the night to feed, as with a swathe of brown red the trees were covered for miles along their path. Gardeners and others, whose energies had been stirred into activity at the first sight of the insects, had long since given up the unequal contest in despair, and had surrendered the field to the myriads of intruders. Tin cans and kettles, the drumming of which had served to scare off first arrivals, had been put by for very weariness, and when night settled on Poona at last it was in truth as a place given over to pillage by the locusts.

When morning broke—Easter Sunday morning too—the work of destruction was by no means yet completed. The locusts began to bestir themselves about 8 o'clock and the great swarms that had not reached Poona the night before, but had settled between here and Kierke, and even beyond that, commenced to move up. If Saturday's swarms were absolutely countless in number, Sunday's were more so. Like great clouds in ceaseless succession the insects swarmed on eastwards. The air was once again thick with them, all flying in the direction of Mundwa and Hadapsur, and even beyond. Myriads settled on trees along the pathway and on the polo ground and other open spots were carpeted thick with them; but these were as a mere handful to the countless numbers that were flying overhead, hastening no one knows whither but where a sure instinct promised them a safe harbourage and an abundance of good cheer. Near Mundwa the cultivators with their fields of lucerne and other crops were in despair. They marched about "shooting" the insects off the crops with pieces of cloth; but where one such locust was thus driven off twenty took its place, until it seemed a veritable labour of Sisyphus to attempt to cope with the swarms. Further away for miles the trees showed up reddish brown, a sure sign of the presence of the pest; but there was no telling how the low-lying fields were faring. If they escape destruction it will be little short of a miracle, for truly a plague, one of the ten that afflicted Egypt in the days of her pride, is upon the land, and its effects are likely to be dire and long felt.

The swarms continued flying over Poona for close upon four hours yesterday. Myriads of the insects staved behind to feed, and unless something occurs to drive them elsewhere we are likely to be afflicted with their presence for some time to come.—A. I.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Daily Express" states that Russia announces that General Makaroff has complete a system of submarine mines all round the Liaotung peninsula for a distance of three miles to seaward.

## TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN.

There is no art of which it is more difficult to obtain a complete mastery than the healing art, human ailments being so many and complicated. But that which taxes the physician's skill most is what is called "diagnosis," the finding out exactly what it is that troubles the patient. In many cases that is a more difficult task than the proper treatment. Nothing is more common than for people to be ill, yet quite unable to say what is the matter with them. When the patient notes his own symptoms, and can state them intelligently, his case is greatly simplified, though even that will not always ensure correct treatment. The people who have died from being treated for one disease while suffering from another are legion; to take one celebrated instance only, such was the fate of Italy's greatest painter, Raphael.

"And how did you get on with the doctor, Patrick?" a man once asked his friend.

"Faith, Michael," was the reply, "I just gave him three-and-sixpence, and told him in English what was the matter with me. Then the doctor told me the same thing in Latin; and that was the end of the business."

Such a result as this is not common, but it is unsatisfactory. Whoever seeks the aid of medicine does so in the hope of finding a cure, and though many are grievously disappointed in their quest, they can have no other object.

The fact is, the field of study is too vast for the cause and cure of all human ailments, as any man, however great his ability, to master physicians are supposed to do. Hence arises specialisation, so that one doctor is said to be an authority on the eye, another on the ear, and so on. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup will not cure every ill; it will not make the blind to see, nor the deaf to hear; but it cures, absolutely cures, indigestion, and the long list of complaints that accompany, or arise out of, that widespread malady. Here are a few details of an interesting case, that of Mr. Charles Zoti, of Buffalo Cafe, Oxford Street, East London. Writing on 4th of December, 1903, to Messrs. A. J. White (Colonel), Ltd., corner of Princes and Diesel Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, proprietors in South Africa of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, Mr. Zoti says: "When in England two years ago I suffered great agony from acute indigestion. I tried a large number of medicines supposed to be cures for this complaint, but received not the least benefit from any of them. Certainly, it was not from any want of perseverance on my part that they failed. I was despairing of relief when one day a friend recommended me to take a course of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which he asserted had an unequalled record for the cure of cases such as mine. I accepted his advice (though without any great expectations of good from it) and was most agreeably surprised to discover a marked improvement in my condition result from the very first bottle. Thus encouraged to persevere with its use, I did not neglect to continue to take it when I came to this country. Now my digestion is as good as anybody's could be—thanks to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, a medicine that I never fail to recommend whenever opportunity occurs, for it gives me genuine pleasure to do so. I am deeply grateful for the very real benefit I have derived from that extraordinary remedy."

Mr. Zoti's experience is shared by many thousands of men and women in every part of the world. With testimony such as Mr. Zoti volunteers, volume might be filled; but it is needless. There is nothing people remember more vividly, or with keener appreciation, than what has rescued them from physical pain and mental depression, two inseparable evils combined in indigestion.

